

# 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 09, 2023

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MINUTES: The Board reviewed the minutes from Regular Meeting held on December 12, 2022.

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 amended. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

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

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Abigail Crosby and Camryn Hall, Central High School students, were in attendance to observe a class requirement. Dennis Holtmann and JoAnn Netemeyer were in attendance to . Dave Wellen, resident, was in attendance to observe.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING - Kent Schwierjohn, Chairman: Schwierjohn updated the Board that the letter of credit from FCB Banks on behalf of Rose-Charles Estates will be updated to clarify only the first phase of the development is included in the letter and that a revised plat will be presented to outline phases of development. Schwierjohn also noted that the governance and covenants of the subdivision are being revised by the developer and will be presented at the January Board of Trustees meeting.

Schwierjohn noted there were no updates to the Kniepmann Subdivision. Administrator Brendel added that comments concerning the subdivision were submitted to Netemeyer Engineering, subdivision engineer, concerning the development and the Village is waiting for updates.

*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*



Zoning Administrator's Report - Jeannie Brendel, Administrator: Administrator Brendel no permits were submitted in November.

STREETS & LIGHTING - Jeff Timmermann, Chairman: Timmermann asked President Schomaker to update the Board on the storm sewer repair at the intersection of East Dwight Street and State Route 161. President Schomaker noted that the project is complete except for the pouring of two sections of sidewalk at the project. He also added that a claim will be filed with AmerenIL to help off-set costs of the project caused by the incorrectly placed street light pole interfering with storm sewer drainage.

Timmermann reported the Parkview Manor retention pond project is complete.

Timmermann reported the storm sewer replacement at Pin Oak Drive is scheduled to begin soon.

Timmermann reported the handrail installation is not yet complete on the State Route 161 Culvert Project, but he will keep the Board updated on the installation.

Timmermann asked President Schomaker to update the Board on the County Road #8 sidewalk extension north of Debra Drive to Court Road. President Schomaker noted that an agreement between the Village of Albers and Clinton County has been submitted to the Clinton County Board with approval expected in January.

Streets and Lighting Superintendent's Report - Eric Rolves, Superintendent: Superintendent Rolves had nothing to report.

WATER & SEWER - Kevin Kenow, Chairman: Kenow updated the Board that Clearwave Communications contacted the Village of Albers concerning installation of fiber-optics within village-limits. He noted that representatives of Clearwave Communications are meeting with officials of neighboring municipalities and he will have more information on the installation at the January committee meeting.

Kenow reminded everyone that water and sewer rates will increase as of January 01, 2023, per the recently approved Ordinance #599-14112022. Rate increases will be reflected on February 2023 statements.

Water & Sewer Superintendent's Report - Chris Horstmann, Superintendent: Superintendent Horstmann was absent, his absence was excused. Kenow reported -4.7% water loss for November, -9.04% water loss for the previous twelve months.

POLICE AND DISASTER RESPONSE - Cliff Behrmann, Chairman: Behrmann asked Chief Vielweber to update the Board on the recent generator installation at Village Hall. Chief Vielweber reported the generator installation is complete and the generator is fully operational. He will be installing barrier posts to protect the generator from damage in the upcoming weeks.

Behrmann asked Kenow to discuss the approval of an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) in coordination with the recent generator installation at Village Hall. He noted the necessity of the UPS to safeguard all electric equipment if/when the generator is used, avoiding any damage to the facility. He presented a quote from Kohrmann Electric for \$12,556.00 for the purchase and installation of the UPS system at Village Hall. The Board discussed the purchase.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to purchase a UPS from Kohrmann Electric for \$12,556.00.

Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber to update the Board on security cameras. He stated the cameras are on backorder and will be installed as soon as they are received, expected to be no later than the end of the month.

Chief Vielweber noted that the License Plate Readers (LPR) are in place and fully operational. He stated a contract with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has been signed to facilitate inter-agency cooperation.

Chief Vielweber asked the Board to allow him to begin officially requesting a beacon at the intersection of State Route 161 / Commercial Street. If approved, Chief Vielweber will be contacting all involved agencies, including Clinton County Board and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), to begin the process of approving and installing beacons at the intersection, including researching funding options.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Behrmann to authorize Chief Vielweber to begin the process of requesting a beacon at the intersection State Route 161 / Commercial Street. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

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

President Schomaker thanked Chief Vielweber for his outstanding commitment to the Village of Albers and his professionalism overseeing special projects benefiting the entire community, including securing grants and funding.

FINANCE - Mike McDermid, Chairman: McDermid presented committee reports to the Trustees.

McDermid updated the Board on the recent electrical aggregation bids presented by Good Energy. He noted that letters will be forthcoming to residents announcing that we are continuing our municipal electricity aggregation program with a new supplier, Constellation NewEnergy. Our primary goal is always to protect our residents from rising electrical supply rates. Since June 2019, Albers residents and small businesses have been receiving fixed rates of 4.29 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) versus the AmerenIL market rate currently at 12.236 cents per kWh. This equates to an average household savings of over \$50 per month, with larger households and businesses saving considerably more. Our current contract with Homefield Energy ends December 2022 and we have secured a fixed rate of 12.10 cents per kWh contract with Constellation NewEnergy for a 22-month term beginning February 2023 through December 2024. To provide you the lowest long-term rate, there will be a two month gap until our contract begins with Constellation NewEnergy. The gap between the two contracts will be filled by AmerenIL as our supplier. The process will be as follows:

Supplier	Dates	Rates per kWh	Action from Residents
Homefield Energy	Contract Ends December 2022.	4.29 cents	NO ACTION REQUIRED
AmerenIL	December 2022 – February 2023	Current Market Rate 12.236 cents	NO ACTION REQUIRED
Constellation NewEnergy	February 2023 – December 2024	12.10 cents	NO ACTION REQUIRED

Over the next 90 days you will be receiving two letters from AmerenIL and one letter from Constellation NewEnergy.

- Letter from AmerenIL – Notifying you that Homefield Energy contract will end December 2022.  
NO ACTION REQUIRED BY RESIDENTS.
- Letter from AmerenIL – Stating they are the new provider beginning January 2023 until February 2023.  
NO ACTION REQUIRED BY RESIDENTS.
- Letter from Constellation NewEnergy – Notifying you that Constellation New Energy will be our new provider beginning February 2023 to December 2024.  
NO ACTION REQUIRED BY RESIDENTS.

McDermid noted that a complete listing of electric suppliers by address has been received from AmerenIL for follow-up by the Village. All residents not currently opting-in the Village electrical aggregation program have been contacted to ensure they understand the details of the program.

McDermid updated the Board on ambulance services provided through Special Service Area #8 (SSA #8). He noted that all entities served by the ambulance service; including Albers, Damiansville, Lookingglass Township and New Baden are working together to revise current operations of the district; transferring district control from New Baden to a formal ambulance district. Approval by the Clinton County Board granting the organization of an independent ambulance district will be discussed at the upcoming Clinton County Board meeting and a required referendum must be prepared for Lookingglass Township for the consolidation to proceed. McDermid added that he is looking forward to continuing the partnership with neighboring entities and serving Albers residents by providing the best possible ambulance service.

The Board reviewed invoices totaling \$108,696.40

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to pay invoices totaling \$108,696.40. 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. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

IMPROVEMENTS & PARK - Scott Athmer, Chairman: Athmer noted that Administrator Brendel is revising preliminary improvement plans on JC Hall from Brendel Architects. Athmer will be working with Administrator Brendel on revisions to the improvement plans and proceeding on the project.

Athmer reported the cameras at the maintenance shed are not yet operational and will be installed with cameras at Lehrter/JC Park and Albers Elementary School.

President Schomaker stated that per previous approval, Joe Ottenschnieder recently picked up and hauled away leaves at Lehrter/JC Park and around the sewer ponds. He asked the Board to consider paying Mr. Ottenschnieder \$600.00 instead of the previously approved \$500.00 due to the extra time and effort it took to complete the project.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Athmer to pay \$600.00 to Joe Ottenschnieder for picking up and hauling away leaves at Lehrter/JC Park and around sewer ponds. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: No Communications were presented.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: President Schomaker asked the Board to consider a donation to the Clinton County Vietnam Veteran's.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to donate \$200.00 to the Clinton County Vietnam Veteran's from the Tourism Fund. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker asked the Board to consider a donation to the family of New Athens Police Officer Lydia Simburger in memory of Officer Simburger's recent death.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to donate \$100.00 to the charity designated by the Simburger family from the Tourism Fund. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker reminded everyone that judging of the 2022 Holiday Lights Contest will be Sunday, December 18, from 6p.m. – 9p.m.

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*