

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 March 13, 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.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MINUTES: The Board reviewed the minutes from Regular Meeting held on February 13, 2023.

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. McDermid asked to add “Lexipol Grant Writing Questionnaire” to the Finance Committee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to approve the agenda as amended. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

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

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Dave and Gavin Wellen, residents, were in attendance to observe.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING - Kent Schwierjohn, Chairman: Schwierjohn had nothing to report.

President Schomaker updated the Board that Moran Economic Development is working on amending our current Enterprise Zone. The amendment will correct an error omitting one parcel from the Enterprise Zone, approved in 2014.

Zoning Administrator's Report - Jeannie Brendel, Administrator: Administrator Brendel noted one accessory permit was granted in February for \$25.00.

STREETS & LIGHTING - Jeff Timmermann, Chairman: Timmermann reported a claim was submitted to

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

AmerenIL to pay for damages caused by an incorrectly installed street light pole interfering with storm sewer drainage at the intersection of East Dwight Street / State Route 161. AmerenIL denied liability in the claim, directing further inquiries to JF Electric, one of the contractors involved installing the street light pole. Timmermann will update the Board as information becomes available.

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

Timmermann updated the Board that the sidewalk extension agreement on North Commercial Street with Clinton County has been filed with the Clinton County Clerk's office. Updates

Streets and Lighting Superintendent's Report - Eric Rolves, Superintendent: Superintendent Rolves updated the Board that grass mowing season is starting and he has been cleaning storm drains.

WATER & SEWER - Kevin Kenow, Chairman: Kenow updated the Board that he is waiting to be contacted by representatives of Clearwave Communications concerning installation of fiber-optics within village-limits. He noted that an engineering plan and bonds will be required if/when Clearwave Communications proposes installation in the Village of Albers.

Kenow updated the Board that the uninterruptable power supply (UPS) has been received and will be installed by Kohrman Electric as scheduling allows. Kenow noted that Chief Vielweber will be coordinating the UPS install.

Kenow updated the Board on recent concerns on the sewer plant, noting complaints of strong odors. He assured everyone that the Village of Albers is committed to managing the issues and is aggressively addressing the issue. Sludge removal on the ponds was discussed as a maintenance concern and it was decided that bids will be requested for sludge removal.

Kenow reported bi-weekly curbside yard waste pick up begins Wednesday, March 29, and runs through Wednesday, December 06, 2023. Residents are also reminded that yard waste may be taken to the designated area at Lehrter/JC Park.

Water & Sewer Superintendent's Report - Chris Horstmann, Superintendent: Superintendent Horstmann reported -40.33% water loss for February, -14.77% water loss for the previous twelve months, noting that the higher than average water loss is due to recent water line breaks, which have been repaired. Superintendent Horstmann noted that he and his department are searching for more leaks contributing to the excessive water loss.

POLICE AND DISASTER RESPONSE - Cliff Behrmann, Chairman: Behrmann asked Chief Vielweber to update the Board concerning installation of a 4-way beacon at the State Route 161 / Commercial Street intersection. Chief Vielweber informed the Board that the beacons have been ordered and will be shipped soon.

Behrmann asked Chief Vielweber to update the Board on security cameras. Chief Vielweber stated the cameras have been installed and will be operational as soon as service is established with Verizon.

Chief Vielweber noted that the License Plate Readers (LPR) are in place and fully operational.

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

Chief Vielweber asked the Board to consider a service contract with Oakley Services, Inc. for maintaining the Village Hall generator for a total of \$316.03 annually. The Board discussed the contract with Chief Vielweber. The Board agreed to the contract and directed Chief Vielweber to contact Oakley Service, Inc.

A formal vote was not taken on the contract and will be addressed as a regular maintenance expense.

Chief Vielweber updated the Board that the Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) has been installed and is fully operational. The UPS ensures continuity of power before the generator starts in the case of a power outage, protecting all Village Hall computers and electronic equipment.

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

McDermid asked the Board to submit grant search items to him for research and review by Lexipol, recently retained to assist in grant writing opportunities for the Village of Albers.

McDermid presented the draft FY2024-2025 Appropriations Ordinance and asked the Board to submit any updates. McDermid also reminded the Board that the final ordinance will be presented for passage at the April meeting.

McDermid updated the Board on the recent electrical aggregation bids presented by Good Energy. He noted that letters we sent 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 residents 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 also updated the Board that a new program is offered to businesses in the Village of Albers for reduced gas and electric rates. Business have been notified and are asked to submit account information to be included in the program. McDermid also noted that including residential accounts in the gas aggregation program is being discussed.

McDermid updated the Board that Good Energy has completed the bidding process for all businesses interested in joining the business electric and gas aggregation program. All businesses interested in participating contacted Albers Village Hall to be included in the program. McDermid noted the expectation that residences may be included in gas aggregation in the near future but is not currently available for Illinois residents.

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. Attorney Bruckert noted that the Rescue Squad District Act is being reviewed as a template for organizing a new ambulance district and that he will update the Board as more information becomes available.

The Board reviewed invoices totaling \$52,708.50.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to pay invoices totaling \$52,708.50. 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.

IMPROVEMENTS & PARK - Scott Athmer, Chairman: Athmer noted that Administrator Brendel is revising preliminary improvement plans on JC Hall from Brendel Architects, Inc. Athmer will be working with Administrator Brendel on revisions to the improvement plans and proceeding on the project, noting that renovations have a preliminary start date in middle of June and with a rough completion in November.

Athmer presented a proposed agreement from Brendel Architects, Inc., for services in renovating the JC Hall. The Board reviewed and discussed the agreement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Athmer to hire Brendel Architects, Inc., for services in renovating the JC Hall for a total fee of \$2,200.00. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Athmer reported the cameras at the maintenance shed have been installed and will be operational soon.

COMMUNICATIONS: No Communications were presented.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: President Schomaker asked the Board to approve his membership in the Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to approve President Schomaker's membership in the Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors at a cost of \$100 annually. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

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