

Village of Albers

206 West Dwight Street-PO Box 132

Albers, IL 62215-0132

Phone (618) 248-5154

www.albersil.org

Fax (618) 248-5490

“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 PUBLIC HEARING OF THE VILLAGE OF ALBERS PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON July 10, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER: President Steve Schomaker called the meeting to order at 6:45p.m.

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

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

OTHER VILLAGE OFFICIALS: Clerk Morris, Chief Vielweber and Attorney Terry Bruckert were in attendance.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Tina Book, Michael Gordon, Alan Hegger, Brian Hubert, Melissa Hubler, Kevin Kalmer, Mike Kalmer, Sean Kennedy, Larry & Jennifer Miller, Rick Musenbrock, Dan Poettker, James Vidrine, William J. Warzala and Dave Wellen were in attendance.

Attorney Bruckert administered sworn statements to all in attendance, reminding everyone to communicate honestly during the hearing.

President Schomaker asked those in attendance to speak. Mr. Warzala stated support for the ambulance service and described a recent incident requiring a quick response for medical care, stating he was grateful for the services received and asked that the services continue. Officials answered questions from those in attendance, noting that changes to ambulance services are still being addressed with few definite plans to present.

Attorney Bruckert stated the Village of New Baden manages ambulance services to the following entities: Village of Albers, Village of Damiansville, Village of New Baden and Lookingglass Township. This ambulance service is not currently financially viable.

All entities are currently funded through the Special Service Areas (SSA) assigned to each district and this plan is not financially viable. All entities have been responsible for expenses of operating the ambulance services not collected through taxes assessed via SSA levies from the respective districts; the villages of New Baden and Albers have expended over \$100,000 and \$33,000.00, respectively and all entities have been responsible for making payments. The division of payments are calculated by the populations of each entity served, making the payments equitable to all being served.

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



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President Schomaker stated that representatives of the villages of Albers, Damiansville, New Baden and Lookingglass Township have been working together for more than two years to find the best way to continue providing life-saving ambulance services to all residents while maintaining financial stability. The Village of New Baden is currently managing the challenges of billing/collection, equipment, Medicare/Medicaid payments and wages; at a significant financial burden. It is agreed that more involvement from the other entities being served is needed to address these challenges. Current statutory limits assessing the annual levy for each SSA creates a short-fall of financing, obligating funds from other sources. Creating a new, independent special service area similar to Clin-Clair Fire Department (CCFD), to be managed by a board comprised of representatives of each entity served is considered the best option. This board will be in response to guidelines established by the Rescue Squad District Act being considered by the State of Illinois and expected to become effective in the fall of 2024. This independent special service area will be the first ambulance district of its kind in the State of Illinois and is being promoted through the advocacy of President Schomaker, Trustee McDermid and Attorney Bruckert. This independent special service area will be the first ambulance district of its kind in the State of Illinois. The Village of New Baden will continue managing services until the independent district is established. Referendums will be presented at the villages of Albers, Damiansville, New Baden and Lookingglass Township in the upcoming months establishing new SSA designations, to be approved individually by each entity.

President Schomaker assured all in attendance that providing 24/7 life-saving ambulance service to the residents of the Village of Albers is a priority and that officials will continue working hard to ensure the service continues.

ADJOURNMENT: The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Brenda Morris, Village Clerk