

## **Village of Bartonville Council Meeting Minutes January 13, 2020 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Ricca called the January 13, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with roll call.

Present: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner (by phone), and Lawless.

Absent: None.

Quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Zachman and Donley motioned for the approval of the December 30, 2019 Board Minutes and Communications.

Ayes: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Trustees Donley and Carroll motioned for the approval of the Expenditures and any Supplementals.

Ayes: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

### **VISITORS**

Gabe McLeod, Director of Property Taxes and Operations-Peoria County Clerk's Office. Gabe McLeod introduced himself to the Board as a primary candidate for the next Peoria County Clerk race and detailed his work in the Clerk's office to digitize records at no additional cost to taxpayers. Gabe stated that he would like to lead this project through to completion with voter support.

Gabe also made note of his work with colleagues in the office to create the first online form people can fill out with information for a marriage license that could reduce the time to complete by 30 minutes.

McLeod, a Western Illinois University graduate with a business degree, is married with a daughter.

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**Public Works Supt. Randy Sweeter** presented his monthly report to the Board and stated that the salt was in good shape and that the roads looked good this weekend. Randy is currently shopping for a bucket truck and getting bids for a 60-72 inch deck mower.

Trustee Donley welcomed Randy back from vacation and asked if he could check the trees that are marked at Mendenhall. It was stated that the time to cut the trees is when the ground is frozen but the river will need to recede and this doesn't happen with frozen ground. Randy said he somewhat knows the property lines. This item will not be put on agenda for a vote until a later meeting.

**Police Chief Fred Kern** presented his monthly report and spoke of part time officer Brad Platt starting and gaining his necessary certifications that had expired. Chief Kern also spoke of lateral full time hire Andrew Dryden that was previously with the Peoria PD beginning his field training program on January 13, 2020.

Chief Kern gave an update on recent vehicle burglaries and that the department had begun receiving lab results back from the extremely backed up Illinois State Police Crime lab. The department will be working on making several juvenile arrests for several cases that were pending lab results.

Chief Kern and Officer Miller went to Springfield and looked at a new squad car and the dealer will begin installing the needed equipment. The department currently has two sets of in car cameras that they can reuse. Parts for the vehicle will be available in a few weeks or so.

Chief Kern spoke of Code Enforcement Officer Kuhlman's retirement and his last day being January 13, 2020. Chief Kern thanked Lee for his service with the Village and the Police Department. Mayor Ricca thanked Chief Kern for his report.

**Fire Chief Mike Cheatham** presented his monthly report and provided a spread sheet of 2019 Emergency service calls. There were 784 calls year to date. 13 fire calls and 53 rescue calls for the month of December.

Chief Cheatham congratulated Lee Kuhlman on his retirement and thanked him for his service to the Village and attendance at many of the fire calls.

Mayor Ricca thanked Chief Cheatham and thanked the department for saving the Village \$42,927.50 for the month and \$494,305.00 year to date minus their small stipend.

## **VILLAGE ATTORNEY**

*Chris Jump*

## **MAYOR**

Mayor Ricca presented a plaque in appreciation for making the Village of Bartonville a better place to live to retiring Code Enforcement Officer Lee Kuhlman. Lee had served the Village as the Code Enforcement Officer from July 24, 2006 to January 13, 2020. Mayor Ricca spoke of all the old dead cars that Lee managed to get off the streets and what an asset Lee has been to the Village.

Lee introduced his wife Linda and then spoke of the email he sent to the Board that stated that he began was very proud to have begun his law enforcement career with the Bartonville Police Department in 1973 and was very happy to also end his career with the Bartonville Police Department. Lee wished everyone the very best that life has to offer and prayed for our continued guidance and safety.

Trustees Lawless and Zachman motioned to approve the appointment of Brad Carr to the Bartonville Police Pension Fund Board.

Ayes: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Trustees Leibach and Donley motioned to approve the reappointments of Phil Blackburn and Rose Guthrie to the Bartonville Zoning Board.

Ayes: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Trustees Zachman and Leibach motioned for a Closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1), to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.

Ayes: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Joy Morris spoke of IWRQ-Code enforcement and building permit program that she is working on and waiting for cost estimates. Joy stated that McLean County and Morton use this system and it might be something the Village wants to use.

Joy questioned which committee would bring questions regarding email issues and email space. Mayor Ricca stated that it would fall under Finance and Administration. Finance Chairman Drew Zachman stated that it would be too late to add the items to the January 15, 2020 Finance committee meeting for a consensus but they could discuss it.

Joy told Lee Kuhlman that no one could fill his shoes and his retirement will create a huge void. Lee thanked her.

#### **VILLAGE CLERK**

Trustees Donley and Carroll motioned to approve payment in the amount of \$3,510.10 to Peoria County Finance for AnimalControl invoice OCT-DEC 2019.

Ayes: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Clerk Carr-Bruce echoed Joy Morris's sentiments regarding Lee Kuhlman. She thanked him and wished him all the best. Michelle also told Lee that once he has enjoyed a few months of retirement she hopes he will choose to serve on one of the available committees.

Clerk Carr-Bruce confirmed that there is an Ordinance Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14 and a Finance Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15.

#### **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

**Trustee Leibach** stated that it was with a heavy heart to Lee Kuhlman go. Trustee Leibach thanked Lee and wished him the best.

Trustee Leibach spoke of an upcoming meeting with two entrepreneurs and would like the individuals to attend the January 15<sup>th</sup> Finance meeting. Fred thanked Joy and Michelle for all of their help.

**Trustee Carroll** thanked Lee Kuhlman and congratulated him on his retirement.

Trustees Carroll and Donley motioned for a Closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(21).

Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this act.

Ayes: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

**Trustee Zachman** thanked Lee Kuhlman for his service and stated that he will be missed.

**Trustee Hoopingarner** thanked Lee Kuhlman and stated that Lee was a heck of a guy.

**Trustee Lawless** congratulated Lee Kuhlman and stated that he was always firm and fair and that it takes a special talent to do this because you are not going out to make friends when you do code enforcement.

Meeting moved to closed session at 6:32 p.m.

Meeting moved to regular session at 7:19 p.m with roll call.

Present: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner (by phone), and Lawless.

Absent: None.

Quorum present.

Trustee Hoopingarner questioned the agenda portion that stated a request to lift the hiring freeze for Public works. Trustee Hoopingarner feels that the Village can lift the hiring freeze with the intentions of hiring the number one person on the Public Works list. Attorney Jump stated that based on the agenda, the Village would be able to vote to lift the hiring freeze but nothing more. Trustee Hoopingarner questioned how the Village would be able to offer the individual a full time temporary position without going through the Board. Attorney Jump stated that the rules of the Civil Service allowed temporary hires by the department head and shall not last more than 120 days. Mayor Ricca stated that the hiring was not on the agenda and it would have to be on the next one. Trustee Carroll stated that he felt the hiring freeze should remain in place until the attorneys were able to answer their queries.

Mayor Ricca said it was the Board's decision.

Trustees Carroll, Zachman and Donnelly expressed concern with the position being temporary full time.

Trustee Carroll wanted to know when they could expect answers from the attorney regarding the current Public Works list, its expiration and how the Village could hire the number one candidate off the current list.

Trustee Donley felt that the Village could not ask the candidate to quit their current full time job to accept a temporary full time job.

Trustee Lawless stated that realistically it would be impossible to fill the vacant civil service commission seats, take applications, interviews and hold testing to obtain a new list in the sixty days prior to the current lists expiration.

It was stated that a 60 day extension for a grievance filed by the Public Works labor union regarding not having 5 employees had been granted by the Union.

Trustee Zachman questioned the fairness of not being able to hire the top person on the Public Works list if it was because there is only one person left on the commission. Attorney Jump requested some time to get some answers for the Board's questions and get back to them.

Trustee Zachman respectfully questioned Mayor Ricca as to why the Mayor had told the Attorneys to stand down in an investigation. Mayor Ricca stated that there were stuff coming from all angles and he was waiting to hear from Nancy whom was investigating some stuff. He wanted to make sure he had everyone's viewpoint and as many records as they could get before he had the attorneys looking into all the different matters. Trustee Zachman stated that he felt it was in the best interest of the Village of Bartonville to get the correct answers from the attorneys so they may hire the number one candidate on the current list and give them the job that they deserve.

Trustee Carroll questioned if the Village was still looking into the records for Civil Service because it was his intention when he questioned it before was because of the inconsistencies in the records and being told that the records didn't exist when there was a secretary for the Civil Service who duty was to take the minutes of the meetings. Trustee Carroll believes that something should be out there whether it be with Shannah or Kathy Ashby. Timeline was discussed and who signed a letter that the number one candidate had received. A date for a meeting between Nancy, the Mayor and the candidate was discussed and Trustee Hoopingarner was questioned regarding the date because he had come down to the hall to meet with the Mayor and Nancy. It was stated that there was no secretary present at these meetings.

Trustee Carroll stated that he had requested the records to see if there were the same record inconsistencies that the Police and Fire commission had shown and the fact he was present as a commission member at some of the Civil Service meetings that had the secretary present that he is now being told there are no minutes to. Mayor Ricca said he couldn't speak to that but was aware that the meeting with Nancy and the Public Works candidate, the secretary was not present. Mayor Ricca stated that he did not take minutes but wasn't sure if Nancy did. Trustee Donley questioned if a quorum was necessary at the meeting in question or could the decision be made by Nancy alone. Trustee Carroll stated that Trustee Donley's question was interesting and he would like to know the answer but currently he has been told that with no records the meetings didn't exist. Trustee Carroll feels the records should come back to the Village as soon as possible so they can help paint a picture of what has happened. Mayor Ricca stated that the documents at the attorney's office came directly from the civil service secretary's office at the Police Department. Trustee Carroll pointed out specific meeting where he, Nancy Lawless, Nancy Garner and Kathy Ashby were present and feels that there should be records and minutes of those meetings.

Trustee Hoopingarner wished to point out that when he met with Mayor Ricca and Nancy Lawless he was not acting as a Board member but acting as an upset father and wanted to be sure that it was aired that the reason was given how and why they had come to their decision.

Trustee Zachman stated that he wished to make sure that we were doing things correctly and wants to do the right thing for the candidates on the current list. Trustee Donley added “as quickly as possible.”

Attorney Jump stated he would have answers in a couple of days.

With no further business being brought before the Board, meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Michelle Carr-Bruce, Village Clerk