

**VILLAGE OF BARTONVILLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, August 22, 2022 6:00 p.m.**

*Leon Ricca, Village President of the Village of Bartonville, as head of the public body, as defined in subsection (e) of Section 2 of the Freedom of Information Act, has determined that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the Illinois Open Meetings Act is not practical or prudent because of a disaster, as defined in Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, which has been declared by the Governor of the State of Illinois.*

*The Village of Bartonville is covered by the disaster area declared by the Honorable Governor J.B. Pritzker. Further, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, this meeting (including open and closed portions thereof) will be conducted by video conference (via Zoom). The Village President will be physically present at the meeting location, Village Hall, located at 5912 S. Adams Street, Bartonville, IL 61607. All other requirements of 5 ILCS 120/7(e) will be followed.*

Mayor Ricca called the August 22, 2022 Board of trustees meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with roll call.  
Present: Trustees Helms, Leibach, Carroll, Donley, Rhea, and Bentley.  
Absent: None. Quorum present.

Also present: Attorney Jump and Clerk Carr-Bruce.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Carroll and Rhea motioned for the approval of the August 8, 2022 Board minutes and communications.  
Ayes: Trustees Helms, Leibach, Carroll, Donley, Rhea, and Bentley.  
Nays: None. Motion passed.

Trustees Carroll and Rhea motioned for the approval of the expenditures and any supplementals.  
Ayes: Trustees Helms, Leibach, Carroll, Donley, Rhea, and Bentley.  
Nays: None. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Drew Zachman, Assistant Fire Chief made the following statement:

“As many of you are aware, a video was taken almost four years ago. There is very inappropriate language on the video and it has recently circulated through social media and to the news. This video is not a reflection of my values or my character. I want to take this time to sincerely apologize to anyone out there who I have offended including my family, my wife, my kids and the Bartonville community, which I have proudly been able to serve for the last 20 years of my life. And to the fellow peers of mine in the fire service I am committed to proving that from this day forward, this mistake does not define me as who I am as a person. I will do everything in my power to learn from this mistake and grow in a positive manner.”

Mayor Ricca thanked Drew and opened the floor for additional speakers.

Mrs. Geanie Thornton, Mapleton IL.

Mrs. Thornton spoke in praise of Mr. Zachman and accused Trustee Helms of intimidation and harassment of the Fire department and the Mayor. She called for Trustee Helms removal from the Board of Trustees on grounds of intimidation and harassment.

Tammy Zachman, Bartonville IL.

Tammy hoped that the community would see Drew as a good hearted and caring person whom was willing to risk his life for others and directed the following statement to Paige Blanzy, reporter for WEEK News 25/WHOI.  
“Shame on you for running with a story from someone with a personal agenda. And shame on you for being okay with causing his family to be harassed. Most of all, shame on you for showing that video at all.”

Donald Thornton, Mapleton IL.

Mr. Thornton read from a prepared statement that praised Drew Zachman and Chief Cheatham. He went on to state that he has been on the Fire department for over forty years and accused Trustee Helms of having a personal vendetta against Chief Cheatham, Assistant Chief Zachman and began to speak of previous criminal charges against Trustee Helms. Mr. Thornton was stopped by Mayor Ricca from any further comments.

Attorney Jump reminded everyone that for public comment, the comments should be directed to the Village Board as a whole and cannot be directed to any individual member of the Board or a committee or a staff member.

Rhonda Wolfe, former Bartonville Mayor, spoke of being the Mayor for eight years and sitting on the Board of Trustees for four years. She stated that Trustee Helms went after not only the Fire department, but herself and the previous Village Clerk that is now deceased. Mayor Wolfe stated that it has got to stop.

Robert Lawless, Bartonville IL.

Mr. Lawless spoke on behalf of himself and his wife and reminded all that no one in the room, no one in the gallery is perfect and that we all have said things in our career that we might regret or wish we could take back. Mr. Lawless stated that if you say that you haven't, you are lying or in denial and to crucify somebody who said something once over four years ago and then to put it on social media is unconscionable.

Mr. Lawless praised Drew Zachman for giving thousands of hours to the Village and to the people of this Village and stated that he, himself wasn't here to deny that a foolish comment that was made in private. He stated he was here to defend a man's privacy and to condemn the person responsible for the assassination in character attempt that not only affect the individual, but the Village which is unconscionable and unfair.

James Zachman, Bartonville IL.

Mr. Zachman wished to expound on comments made by others and note that the secondary issue is a 15 to 20 yearlong campaign that has been waged against the Fire department and individuals within the Department. Mr. Zachman stated that he has sat on the sidelines hoping that these personal vendettas and personal agenda would go away and that he will no longer sit on the sidelines and just accept it.

Mayor Ricca thanked all for their comments.

Mayor Ricca made the August 22, 2022 Declaration of State of Emergency.

## VILLAGE CLERK

Trustees Carroll and Rhea motioned to approve Tokio Marine HCC as the 2022 medical reinsurance carrier for the Village of Bartonville. Tokio Marine HCC's proposal represented a 0% increase for stop loss premium.

Ayes: Trustees Helms, Leibach, Carroll, Donley, Rhea, and Bentley.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

## TRUSTEE REPORTS

**Trustee Helms** thanked everyone for coming and stated that he wanted to speak on the harassment and intimidation that he was being accused of.

Trustee Helms asked if everyone would look at how the Firefighter compensation came about and the Public Safety Tax. He stated that these items were something he and Darryl Hoopingarner had done and he has always voted for everything for the Fire department.

Trustee Helms stated that his problem is when we are presented with underage drinking, the Chief not doing what he is supposed to do and then it gets swept under a rug, he is going to present the issue, there is no vendetta.

**Trustee Carroll** pulled Ordinance #1865 and #1866 and scheduled an Ordinance committee meeting for Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Trustee Carroll addressed Mr. Drew Zachman and thanked him for coming down and making the apology, noting the courage it took and spoke of moving forward and making our Village a better place to live and work. Trustee Carroll called upon Mayor Ricca to investigate and initiate cultural sensitivity training that all of our full-time and part-time employees, volunteers, Board members take and sign off on, by the end of the year. Mayor Ricca replied in the affirmative and thanked Trustee Carroll.

**Trustee Donley** thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting and stated it is important that we hear from our community members, it is appreciated and that we would like to see more participation from residents.

Trustee Donley stated that she respected the courage that it took for Drew to make an apology and that she thought it was in the best interest of the Village.

**Trustee Rhea** concurred with Trustee Carroll and stated that training is probably a really good idea and she agrees with Trustee Donley that we need to hear from everyone more often.

Trustees Rhea and Leibach motion to approve the placement of a "Blessing Box" by Village Hall. The box will be constructed by Jill Blockhaus and her husband. They had built the box located in Alpha Park and it has been very successful in helping those in need.

Ayes: Trustees Helms, Leibach, Carroll, Donley, Rhea, and Bentley.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Trustee Rhea spoke of a grant Alpha Park Library received to do a podcast about the old State hospital and that they are calling people whom grew up around here when the doors of the hospital were open to contact her at the Library to participate.

**Trustee Bentley** thanked Mr. Zachman for speaking and everyone for coming. She stated she agreed with Trustee Carroll and thinks that it is a great idea to provide diversity and inclusion training for everyone in the Village.

Rhonda Wolfe stated that she isn't able to make it to all the meetings but knows that some areas in the Village were looking shabby. She asked what was going on with the old Wayne Feed plant and Mayor Ricca stated that an Ordinance officer was being hired this weekend.

Trustee Carroll stated that he knows a lot of people in the Village are unable to attend meetings for a variety of reasons and that all of the meeting are on Zoom for that reason. People can still participate from the comfort of home or wherever they are even if they are not able to make it to Village Hall for the live presentation.

Mayor Ricca thanked all for their attendance.

With no new business being brought before the Board and no further public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Michelle Carr-Bruce, Village Clerk