

PUBLIC NOTICE
VILLAGE OF ROMEO

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A NEW ORDINANCE ALLOWING MARIHUANA GROW
FACILITES

A Public Hearing was held by the Village of Romeo Board of Trustees on Monday, July 20, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., at the Romeo Community Center 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065.

Purpose of Hearing: To hear comments oral or written on the new ordinance(s) allowing recreational and medical marihuana growing facilities within the community. Public hearing was opened at 7:02 p.m. No comments were heard. Public hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Agenda

Date: July 20, 2020

Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065

South Building Meeting Room

Present: Nathan Bartholomew
Matt Edwards
Zach Fowler
Bob Hart – Joined meeting at 7:12 p.m.
Meagan Poznanski
Randy Seidel
Christine Malzahn

1. Call to order – pledge of allegiance. Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. *Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2020*
MOTION by Edwards second by Seidel to approve the minutes from June 15, 2020
AYES: Edwards, Seidel, Bartholomew, Fowler, Poznanski, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
3. *Approval of Bills*
MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to approve July bills in the amounts of \$179,831.36 and \$46,785.40
AYES: Bartholomew, Edwards, Seidel, Poznanski, Fowler, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
4. *Approval of Agenda*
MOTION by Edwards second by Poznanski to approve the agenda as presented
AYES: All
Nays: None
Motion carried.

5. *Special Presentations* – Village to City Report

Elizabeth Miller, Chairperson of the Village to City Committee, gave a presentation created by the Village to City Committee. Comments and questions were heard from audience members and Trustees.

*Committee suggested going through

6. *Correspondences* – 1 Thank you letter from Samaritan House was recognized by President Malzahn

7. *Officer reports*

a. President

The Village offices remain open for public walk-ins Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30pm, all who enter are required to wear a mask.

As of today, Romeo has had 18 reported Covid cases with deaths remaining at 4, there are 18 cases / 5 deaths in Bruce and 111 cases / 6 deaths in Washington Township. Planning Commission Chairman Jim Stegner, due to health concerns, has requested that their meetings continue to be held on Zoom. I assisted him the last two meetings with the IT and organization of the attendees. Their next meeting scheduled for August 6th, will also be on zoom only.

The Community Shred Day was a success. I want to thank Richard Cory and Clerk Trapp for volunteering their time with me to help the residents unload and keep the line of cars moving. We had 40 vehicles drive thru and had over 3000 pounds of paper in the truck when it left. If you missed it the next one is September 26th at the Bruce Twp Hall – all Romeo and Bruce residents are welcome to shred.

Organizers from the Romeo Backs the Blue appreciation group, held a rally on July 11th in support of our first responders. The day's events included a march of supporters from Crowell Street up to the Village Park followed by an afternoon of speeches and live music from the band Family Tradition that all entertained a nice size crowd. I was proud to march (with mask on) alongside our community members and really want to thank Mark Davis and Aimee McDonald for all of their efforts in organizing and promoting this event in such a short timeframe. They graciously presented a check for \$2,000 to our Police Chief last week that will help offset the renovation cost of their locker room area, from the funds raised on their Go-Fund Me page.

At the last DDA meeting we held some discussion regarding Harvest Days, it was voted to cancel the event for 2020 due to health and safety concerns for attendees, our decision followed the announcement by the Lions to cancel this year's Peach Festival.

- b. Clerk – I would like to announce that as of last week, we our SOLD OUT in the Village Cemetery. Our last section, the 12th, has no more spots for sale. The Cemetery Board will be meeting this coming Wednesday, July 22nd, at 3:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. I had my monthly Macomb County Clerk's Association meeting last week via Zoom. During that meeting I was voted in for a 2nd term as Trustee to the Association. Next month's meeting will be held with a representative from the Secretary of State to further discuss the upcoming General November Election. It was brought to my attention that a leader in the community had made a posting on social media a few weeks back, about our new summer hours, asking if "we" are looking at less service for the same price. I don't know who you mean by "we" because it is the VILLAGE STAFF who work tirelessly for our residents. I had a discussion with my staff in regards to this posting and not only were they hurt, they were angry and very offended that this came from a leader in the community. During the entire COVID quarantine I had staff reporting every day. The lobby wasn't open for obvious reasons but staff was reporting everyday to answer phones or keep appointments with residents who needed to come in. In the beginning it was scary and emotional since these were unprecedented times. Even with their own shortened schedules, someone was here everyday to answer the phones. Not once did my staff hear a "Thank you" from any leader in the community. Therefore, that made that post sting even more. I will let you know that my staff is available more then residents are aware. Being the Cemetery Sexton I have my office calls forwarded to my cell phone after business hours, all other staff members have that capability. I am able to check and respond to emails from home, as do the staff members. Cindy constantly gets texts from vendors and residents on her days off.

After discussion with my staff, they have asked me to invite the trustees to come in the office and ask us how our day is? Ask us what we are working on? The staff would love to show you how your voting on

certain agenda items affects how they conduct business for the residents. I have had this discussion countless times with my staff and they are completely frustrated at this. So, please tell me, what service will be offered LESS to the residents?

- c. Treasurer – Taxes are receipting into the new BS&A System and process is running smoothly. Comment on Christine Malzahn for newsletter not in tax bill. I was open to placing the newsletter in the tax bill. Everything I needed to say was on the tax bill. Reached out to Marvin Cushingberry in the audience who spoke about us all coming together to work through our differences. I know the residents and employees are fed up as well. I have daily contact with residents via phone, in the office and out in the community to address concerns the residents may have.
- d. Trustees – Trustee Bartholomew talked about moving forward with the sidewalk project. Have been talking to residents about continuing sidewalk repair. Trustee Poznanski attended the Police rally, would like to congratulate Kelley Stephens on becoming Chair of the DDA (Downtown Development Authority). Also, attending an online class through the MSU Extension. *Trustee Poznanski also made comments in regards to the report that was presented by Clerk Trapp.
- e. Ex-Officio Planning Commission Member – Items will be covered in this agenda

8. *Committee Reports:* No committees at this time.

9. *Public Comments – Agenda Items Only* – No Comments were heard.

10. Unfinished business:

- a. Annexation Request – Zochowski

MOTION by Fowler second by Edwards to approve the request for Annexation into the Village of Romeo

AYES: Fowler, Edwards, Bartholomew, Hart, Seidel, Poznanski

NAYS: Malzahn

Motion carried.

- b. Village to City Process

MOTION by Edwards second by Bartholomew to abide by the committee's recommendation for Phase II of Village to City

AYES: Edwards, Bartholomew, Seidel, Hart, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler, Poznanski

Motion carried.

- c. Pampalona Companies – Alley vacating and municipal lot maintenance

MOTION by Fowler second by Poznanski to vacate the alley in its entirety from Newberry to 1N2E Easement

YEAS: Fowler, Poznanski, Hart, Edwards, Bartholomew, Malzahn

NAYS: None

**Trustee Seidel recused himself from voting*

Motion carried.

11. New Business:

- a. TED – B Grant Resolution

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Poznanski to approve the TED (Transportation Economic Development) – B Grant in the amount of \$131,990

AYES: Bartholomew, Poznanski, Seidel, Hart, Edwards, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler

Motion carried.

- b. Homecoming Parade Request

MOTION by Fowler second by Seidel to approve the permit request for the Homecoming Parade on October 7, 2020

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

- c. Younger's Irish Tavern Street Shindig Permit Request

MOTION by Fowler second by Hart to approve the permit request

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

- d. Municode

MOTION by Hart second by Poznanski to approve the expenditure of \$3600.00 to update our Municode

AYES: Hart, Poznanski, Seidel, Fowler, Edwards, Bartholomew, Malzahn

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

- e. Marihuana Ordinances

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to recommend adopting this ordinance, once published, go into effect 20 days after publication, also to include the update of Medical Class C is allowed 2,000 plants and Recreational Class C is allowed 1,500 plants.

AYES: Bartholomew, Edwards, Hart, Seidel, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler, Poznanski

Motion carried.

12. Public Comments – Comments were heard by 2 residents

13. CLOSED SESSION –

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Hart to enter into Closed Session by MCL 15.268 purpose of strategy and negotiation session connected with the negotiations of collective bargaining agreements at 9:52 p.m.

AYES: Bartholomew, Hart, Seidel, Edwards, Poznanski, Fowler, Malzahn

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Hart to enter in Public Session at 9:57 p.m.

YEAS: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Malzahn second by Bartholomew to approve the First Responder pay in the amount of \$9,633.89

AYES: Malzahn, Bartholomew, Seidel, Poznanski, Hart, Fowler, Edwards

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

14. Adjournment

MOTION by Fowler second by Malzahn to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Trapp, Village Clerk

*Indicates comments that were added at approval of meeting minutes, August 17, 2020 meeting.