

Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes

Date: June 15, 2020

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

Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065

South Building Meeting Room

Present: Nathan Bartholomew
Matt Edwards
Zack Fowler
Bob Hart
Meagan Poznanski
Randy Seidel
Christine Malzahn

1. Call to order – pledge of allegiance. Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2020
MOTION by Edwards second by Bartholomew to approve the meeting minutes for May 18, 2020 as presented
AYES: Edwards, Bartholomew, Hart, Poznanski, Seidel, Malzahn
NAYS: Fowler
Motion carried.
3. Approval of Bills
MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to approve the bills in the amounts of \$13,935.18 and \$112,743.75
AYES: Bartholomew, Edwards, Seidel, Poznanski, Hart, Fowler, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
4. Approval of Agenda
MOTION by Hart second by Seidel to approve the agenda by adding two additional items: Adding i. Annexation – Chet Zochowski under New Business and by adding CLOSED SESSION after Public Comments
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
5. Special Presentations – Presentation Chet Zochowski about annexing Armada property on Powell Road into the Village of Romeo. Presentation by Salvatore D’Anna from D’Anna and Associates and Vito Pampalona from Pampalona Companies, who own property on North Bailey Street. Before submitting a site plan, they wanted to review some items for approval with the Board of Trustees. Letter of items was included in trustee packets.
6. Correspondences – One letter was discussed from Foster Swift Law Firm
7. Officer reports
 - a. President –

The Village offices are officially back open for public walk-ins Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30pm, all of the protective plexi-glass and signage and been installed. All staff is back from their furloughs and are reporting for their regular schedules, with proper safety precautions. We are not feeling well to stay home, and those that need to come in to please wear a mask.

As I mentioned last month the State legislators approved the HEREOS fund. County officials calculated disbursements based on population and reported Covid-19 expenditures - Romeo's distribution amount will be \$37,289.

As of today, Romeo has had 14 reported Covid cases with 4 deaths, with an additional 18 cases / 4 deaths in Bruce and 88 cases / 5 deaths in Washington Township.

I would like to publically thank Woodside Bible Church for the lunch they provided to our staff on June 3rd. It was very kind of them to include us in their prayer efforts and to nourish our bodies as well.

We have begun cleaning out the old vault, which is located off the lunchroom in the police department. The Police department will be using that space as their new officers' room, as we finalize the FBI compliance/village hall renovations. I have invited the archivists from Kezar Library to come and review the old logbooks, and other documents that may be better served to our residents if they were catalogued and housed in their archives. Some of these documents date back to the early 1900's from what we can see.

Organizers from the Black Lives Matter movement held a protest rally in Romeo on Friday. It was reported that nearly 1000 people participated and marched from Croswell Street up Main Street to Newberry where they turned and held an assembly in the Village Park. There were numerous speakers from both the Community and the organizers, the day concluded with the Congregation Church bells ringing will everyone observed a somber 8 min and 46 second quiet vigil. Police Chief Sokolonicki reported that there were no problems reported from the attendees.

b. Clerk –

I would like to Thank the Cemetery Board and their volunteers for putting flags on veterans' graves in time for Memorial Day. They worked very hard to ensure every vet got a flag. Last week I attending a Michigan Association for Municipal Clerks Summer Conference all online as webinars. The actual conference was cancelled due to COVID-19. There were a total of 8 different webinars that I did attend online that included such topics as Emergency Preparedness, Notary Public updates, Cemetery management, legalities and litigation of Freedom of Information Act, Election Audits, which also reviews of everyday clerk duties such as accounting and budgeting, Parliamentary procedures and rules, Ethics and Code of Conduct, Agendas, Minutes and Resolutions and the Open Meetings Act. Which brings me to an item I would like to address that I get asked about a lot so I would like to clarify. Well, not really get asked, perse, hear a lot of comments and assumptions on. The posting of meeting dates, time and place. (Show agenda item of calendar of dates). Agendas are not a part of the OMA. They are information for the public of what is going to be discussed. Therefore, if there is a typo, a missing TIME or address, an incorrectly worded agenda item, it is not in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

c. Treasurer – Update with BS&A Software program process is more efficient and provides the capability of online access through the Village of Romeo Website to view ten (10) years of history for the water bills. Payments can be processed through the Village of Romeo Website and credit card processing is a 3% fee. We are open to the public to accept payments or utilize the U.S. Mail or Drop Box.

ACH Processing setup is in place to accept large vendor checks and thank Tim our accountant for assistance.

Working with Tim on setting up the tax base and added the Cemetery Tax to the bill and delinquent water was added.

100 residents are on delinquent water report and two (2) residents asked for financial assistance. Board request to add further discussion for next meeting.

Board meeting May 18, 2020, I was on the Zoom meeting, muted and unable to provide my report. I want to address Zack Fowler who presented the question to Christine Malzahn about why she signed the checks. Christine signed the payroll checks on my behalf which is the

treasurer's responsibility. Christine was not accurate with her report and I had not been off several days as she discussed. I want to address the board and residents that I have the responsibility to sign all checks, I make arrangements with the payroll clerk and sign accordingly. I was in the office later in that day to sign the checks.

I have no complaints or issues of me not getting back with the residents as no one has communicated to the Clerk or the President. For the past 1 ½ years I have worked diligently and the best of my capabilities to better serve the residents. When I was sold this opportunity, it was communicated to me this position was part time and fulltime during tax season.

- d. Trustees – Trustee Fowler thanked the Police Chief of Romeo, Mr. Cushingberry, and Romeo Community Schools who took care of the rock. Trustee Seidel stated that the Village to City committee will be having its 4th meeting coming up. Trustee Poznanski spoke about walking in the rally that was held the previous Friday. Thank you to the Chief of Romeo Police, Romeo Police officers and other police jurisdictions that helped out. Trustee Bartholomew thanked Chief of Romeo Police for their service during the rally. Also talked about the sidewalks. Was hoping to have started the project [from last season] to continue repairing. Due to Covid-19 we are behind. The contractor has been in touch with Trustee Bartholomew. Other contractors are being considered.
- e. Ex-Officio Planning Commission Member – Ex-Officio Zack Fowler said that some of the items to report will be discussed on some of the upcoming agenda items.

8. Committee Reports: No committees at this time.

9. Public Comments – Agenda Items Only – No Comments

10. Unfinished business:

- a. Sewer Use Ordinance

MOTION by Poznanski second by Edwards to adopt the ordinance as written

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

- b. Marijuana Ordinance Reviews

Item was discussed. No board action taken.

11. New Business:

- a. Budget Amendments

MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to approve the Budget Amendments as presented

AYES: Hart, Bartholomew, Seidel, Edwards, Malzahn

NAYS: Poznanski, Fowler

Motion carried.

- b. 2020-2021 FY Meeting Dates

MOTION by Hart second by Seidel to approve the meeting dates as presented

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

NAYS: Poznanski

Motion carried.

- c. Planning Commission Request for Re-Zoning Recommendation

MOTION by Edwards second by Bartholomew to uphold the Planning Commissions recommendation to deny the rezoning request

AYES: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

- d. Annual SMART MC/CC Contract

MOTION by Seidel second by Hart to approve the transfer of funds to SMART

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

- e. Letter from D'Anna Associates

- f. Hazard Mitigation Plan

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Seidel to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented

YEAS: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

- g. Community Shred Day June 20, 2020

Flyer for Shred Day was included in the board packets. No board action taken.

- h. COVID-19 Outdoor Service Area

Extended outdoor seating for local eateries and restaurants process has already begun.

- i. Annexation (added)

MOTION by Malzahn second by Fowler to proceed with the annexation request

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

12. Public Comments – One resident from Dickenson Street spoke at the podium.

13. CLOSED SESSION (Added)

MOTION by Malzahn second by Bartholomew to enter into Closed Session by MCL 15.268 purpose of strategy and negotiation session connected with the negotiations of collective bargaining agreements at 8:51 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Seidel to enter into regular session at 9:12 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Malzahn second by Hart to approve the proposal for the pay compensation for our front line workers as presented

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

14. Adjournment

MOTION by Fowler second by Hart to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Trapp, Village Clerk