

Board of Trustees Meeting
MINUTES

Date: July 18, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065

South Building Meeting Room

PRESENT: BARTHOLOMEW
FOWLER
HART
POZNANSKI
PRESIDENT MALZAHN
ABSENT: EDWARDS
PARKER

1. **Call to order** – pledge of allegiance. President Malzahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**
3. **CONSENT AGENDA** (*minutes June 20, 2022*), (*council bills/vendor report \$49,344.55 AND \$249,857.23, meeting agenda*)

MOTION by Malzahn second by Bartholomew to approve the minutes from June 20, 2022 with edits

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Hart to approve the bills

AYES: Bartholomew, Hart, Fowler, Malzahn

NAYS: Poznanski

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

MOTION by Hart second by Poznanski to approve the agenda with the removal of item #11. CLOSED SESSION

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

4. **Special Presentations** – Utility Billing Rate Study – John Kaczor, Municipal Analytics, gave presentation about the completed rate study.
5. **Correspondence(s)** – None
6. **Public Comment** – Comments were heard
7. **Officer reports**
 - a. President

Let me start with a quick construction update on the pedestrian crosswalk project. So far, everything has been moving along pretty smoothly. I had to call in Able Tree for some emergency tree trimming with the last traffic shift along W. St. Clair due to the proximity of the large trucks and the low branches along that stretch. Able was on site within a few hours to minimize any additional damage. There is some concern over the varying depths of asphalt – the discovery of depths ranging from several inches and up to 16” in some areas was a surprise, but so far, the Road commission, the Rowe Engineer team and our Contractor have been able to find solutions to keep the project on its timeline.

Traffic shifts were put in place this morning for south bound traffic along main street, this removes parking from the west side of street. All of the local businesses remain open, and are encouraging patrons to use their entrances behind the buildings.

Thank you everyone for their continued patience. This is difficult for everyone, but will be a huge improvement to Romeo when its completed. If you haven't walked on the recently finished North West corner of St. Clair and Main – please make sure to come by – it is fantastic!

Thank you to Trustee Parker and Mr. Clark for attending with me the Northern Macomb Regional Waste Treatment facility meeting hosted by Candice Miller at the Roads Department on Monday June 27th. As I previously reported Romeo hosted Ms. Miller and a contingent of interested parties at a tour of our WWTP seeking data for and options for expanding the Romeo plant into a regional facility that would capable of treating effluent from Bruce, Romeo and Armada Township.

Macomb County engineering firm Fishbeck sent lead engineer Maria Sedecki to present their findings from the tour and data provided by all three municipalities. The figures presented were really very rough estimates and the numbers indicate investment from Romeo for mid-range flow amounts to be at \$14M, Armada Twp at \$26M and Bruce Twp at \$29M. Next steps, if any, would be for the 3 communities to seek grants (with help from the County) and other funding options to determine if it's even possible to move this project forward.

Huge thanks to Vicki Rowinski and her team at the MEDC for coordinating the new Romeo VIP Ford Facility kickoff meeting held on July 6th. This VIP program (Verified Industrial Program) brings together the leadership from Romeo, the MEDC and the Detroit Regional Partnership to collaboratively build a detailed report on the Ford Engine Plant Campus to be developed as a marketing tool. The goal is to overlay the existing facilities with potential opportunities as well as surrounding infrastructure in proximity to that campus to help incentivize and attract a new development.

I still do not have an exact date of shut down, but Ford is targeting the end of this year and expect a 2-year equipment removal and remediation process.

I had the pleasure of volunteering during the day, judging the Costume Contest with County Exc Mark Hackel, Judge Jennifer Andary, Romeo Lions member Caroline Miller and her Brother Bill Miller and the ever-talented FrolickING Elvis at 6pm, followed by beer and wine service at the Chamber building, all during the DDA's Vintage Fest on July 9th. To say that the event was a success is putting it mildly – everyone's expectations were blown out of the water. The day was spectacular and truly showcased what this little Village is all about... some good ol' fashioned family fun! Thank you to everyone who also volunteered their time and talents we all look forward to the 2nd event next year.

The Romeo and Juliette Garden club hosted its annual Garden Walk Saturday July 17th. What a treat I had on their tour... so lucky to get a glimpse of these tranquil little spots that welcome family, friends, fairies and gnomes. The love and dedication that our homeowners put into their little slices of heaven is inspiring to say the least. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped raise funds for the Romeo and Juliet Garden Club... well done indeed! They are looking for new members - so if you have some time they'd love to hear from you!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Romeo events.

Grab your chairs, blankets and dance partners and head to the Village Park for the Parks & Recs **Music in the Park Concert** series. The 2nd in the series of concerts will be this Sunday July 24th featuring Detroit Social followed by Wayward Wind on July 31st.

And for more music and family enjoyment the **Romeo Porch Fest** is back. SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022 join your neighbors at one, two or all three of the locations where live musicians will be performing with all proceeds supporting the 42 Strong, Tate Myre Foundation.

Ed & Gretch 3pm 208 Church St

Detroit Revelators 5pm 328 N Bailey St

Jukebox Junkies 7pm 372 N Main St

The Morton Mountain Water Slide is back – August 10th 4-7 pm. There is no need to register – just pack your picnic basket, grab your towels and inflatables and hit the slopes with the Parks and Rec staff. This is a FREE event thanks to the generous sponsorship from Pro-Line Asphalt and water supplied from the Village water system to fill up their truck. My #1 priority is to always serve our residents and our beautiful community. When important issues come arise, please know I will always make time for you to discuss your concerns. Our office strives to achieve complete transparency and every single staff member and I will always do our very best to assist you. Do not hesitate to reach out to us.

b. Clerk

In June President Malzahn and I attended an online webinar through the Michigan Department of Treasury for Fiscally Ready Communities

Also, in June I was elected to the Transportation Coordinating Council which is through SEMCOG-South Easter Michigan Council of Government. I am very much looking forward to fulfilling my new role.

I have recently been appointed as President to the Macomb County Clerk's Association. I will begin chairing those meetings starting in August.

I also had the opportunity to volunteer at the DDA's Vintage Fest. Was honored to be a part of this inaugural event. Can't wait til next year.

Last week most members of the cemetery board along with President Malzahn and I met with engineering firm AEW (Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick) in the cemetery to discuss the new roads project in the cemetery. Other projects in the cemetery were discussed along with a walking tour of our grounds.

c. Treasurer

September 21, 2021 submitted a letter to all Board Members, HR and Attorney Mark Clark declining my 2021 rate increase of 2%. July 11, 2022 submitted letter declining my 2.5% increase in pay from July 1, 2022 to the remaining amount of my term ending in November 2022. Treasurer Budget came in under approved Budget, Part time employee who I hired last year has been reporting to Clerk Trapp since November 2021.

Utilize back of tax bill to save money on newsletter which cost the residents over \$1,100.00. Residents expressed concern with the newsletter used as a marketing tool and money could have been better spent with updating news, recycle, and other important news.

No foreclosure properties in the Village to purchase

Tax Bills mailed and receipting payments.

d. Trustees

Trustee Poznanski – Congratulations to the DDA on Vintage Fest, attended a training recently

Trustee Bartholomew – Great Vintage Fest, auction was great, lot of residents enjoyed the newsletter

Trustee Hart – Congratulations Clerk Trapp on being President of Macomb County Clerk's Association.

e. Ex-Officio Planning Commission – Approved the plans for the Village Park to go forward

8. Committee Reports

- a. Bruce Sewer Capacity Subcommittee – Board was provided with copy of agreement in board packet. Item was discussed. Committee has not met yet.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Romeo Town Square Condo Assoc.

MOTION by Poznanski second by Bartholomew to authorize President Malzahn to enter into the proposed agreement with Romeo Towne Square Condos as presented.

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

- b. Property Purchase Offer

MOTION by Poznanski second by Fowler to reject any and all offers

AYES: Poznanski, Fowler, Hart, Bartholomew

NAYS: None

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Recused from voting: Malzahn

Motion carried.

c. Street Improvements

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Hart to submit Street Improvement Bond Proposal Option 2 to the Macomb County Clerks office, placing Exhibit A language on the November 8, 2022 General Election Ballot for consideration by the voters of Romeo

AYES: Bartholomew, Hart, Poznanski, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Bendzinski Engagement Letter

MOTION by Poznanski second by Bartholomew to authorize President Malzahn to execute the Engagement Letter retaining the services of Bendzinski & Co. as set forth in their proposal in the amount of \$23,180.00

AYES: Poznanski, Bartholomew, Malzahn, Hart, Fowler

NAYS: None

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

b. PA 152 EVIP Opt-out

MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to adopt the annual exemption option as set forth in 2011 public act 152, the publicly funded health insurance contribution act as presented

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

c. Utility Rates Adoption

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Hart to approve the utility rates as presented effective September 16, 2022

AYES: Bartholomew, Hart, Malzahn, Poznanski

NAYS: Fowler

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

d. WWTP Equipment Purchase

MOTION by Hart second by Poznanski to approve the purchase of 3 VFD pump, with installation and start up from Kerr Pump in the amount of \$11,355.00

AYES: Hart, Poznanski, Bartholomew, Fowler, Malzahn

NAYS: None

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

e. Audio/Visual Meeting Room Equipment Purchase

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Poznanski to approve the purchase of speaker, amplification and projector equipment with the installation in the amount of \$4608.60

AYES: Bartholomew, Poznanski, Hart, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler

Absent: Edwards, Parker
Motion carried.

**~~11. CLOSED SESSION — FOR THE PURPOSE OF REAL ESTATE DISCUSSION~~ ITEM WAS REMOVED
FROM AGENDA.**

12. Adjournment

MOTION by Hart second by Fowler to adjourn the meeting [at 9:40 p.m.]

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Absent: Edwards, Parker

Motion carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,
KATHRYN TRAPP
VILLAGE CLERK**