

Board of Trustees Meeting
MINUTES

Date: September 19, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065

South Building Meeting Room

PRESENT: BARTHOLOMEW
EDWARDS
FOWLER
HART
PARKER
POZNANSKI
PRESIDENT MALZAHN

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 August 15, 2022*), (*council bills/vendor report \$34,193.77 and \$549,137.22, meeting agenda*)

MOTION by Edwards second Bartholomew to approve the meeting minutes with edits

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Edwards second by Parker to approve the agenda with 1 addition to New Business and 2 additions to Unfinished Business

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to approve the bills in the amount of \$34,193.77 and \$549,137.22

AYES: Bartholomew, Edwards, Hart, Poznanski, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler, Parker

Motion carried.

4. **Special Presentations** – None

5. **Correspondence(s)** – None

6. **Public Comment** – Comments were heard

7. **Officer reports**

- a. Trustee Reports –
 - Trustee Poznanski – Trustee Talk recently took place. Thank you to all that helped with the Romeo Peach Festival. Attending another Planning class, thanked DPW employee Wayne Zapczynski, who recently retired, for his years of service.
 - Trustee Parker – Residents reached out to him about the vacant cross walk guide post at Hollister, Ordinance book was received, no update on the Village Park project
 - Trustee Hart – talked about the last meeting’s discussion about the Village Park.
- b. Treasurer Report -
 - 1467 Tax payments processed collected \$2,551,871.76. Process of balancing with each municipality.
 - Delinquent Tax \$197,000
 - Working on transitioning the responsibilities, Caroline will oversee and process the water billing. Requested an updated Credit Card Policy be added to the agenda which was not completed by Clerk Trapp. Discussion with board members my concern for the ability to view access online with PNC & Chase Bank. Numerous attempts with verbal, emails along with a banker in the office indicating to Clerk Trapp, allow the treasurer to view the statements online as a check and balance. President Malzahn and Clerk Trapp had complete control of the two credit cards since November 20, 2018. There has been no oversight with the Board or Treasurer to have the supporting documentation from Clerk Trapp. I recommend to allow the treasurer to view access and require the Board to review the bank statement with the supporting documentation attached.
- c. Clerk Report –
 - The Cemetery Board has met a few times recently to discuss the upcoming project of redoing the roads at the Cemetery. The board has also met with the engineering firm Anderson Eckstein and Westrick to put together the engineering specs for the bid packet. The cemetery board is hoping to have that information soon.
 - Last Thursday on September 15th I attended the SEMCOG Transportation Coordinating Council. I have recently been elected as 1 of 2 delegates that represents cities and villages. There were a few presentations on road projects that are in motion along with new projects that involve electronic vehicles and charging stations that are in the planning stages.
 - Over the Labor Day weekend I had the pleasure to once again, volunteer with the Romeo Lions Club during Peach Festival. Great to see so many people come enjoy the weekend in the Village of Romeo
- d. Presidents Report –
 - Did you catch the Pedestrian Crosswalk Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held right on main street to celebrate this huge achievement? It was great to have County Executive Mark Hackel on hand with me to talk about how the project came to fruition, a few of the challenges we encountered along the way and to congratulate Romeo on this significant investment in our community. I heard over and over during the Labor Day weekend people comment on how beautiful they look and how much easier it is to walk around town. A big thank you to Trustees Hart, Bartholomew and Edwards for supporting this project from the beginning and helping me get it implemented. You can watch all the interviews and festivities on the MittTV if you missed it.

Thank you to Dr. Todd Robinson for the invitation and the opportunity to join in the RCS Welcome Back Luncheon on August 23rd. In Todd’s own words "Sometimes it’s best to let other people speak from their hearts because they mirror your own." It was a very heartfelt day as several guest speakers came together to speak our own experiences sharing our love and respect for one another and to honor those who teach, care and nurture our children.

Congratulations to Sean Earle of Romeo Gold Studios on your September 1st Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon Cutting by the RW Chamber of Commerce. It was my pleasure to attend and recognize Sean as our very own “Romeo Rock Star”. The Romeo Gold studio space located in the Woodland Shopping Center is state-of-the art and beautiful. What a wonderful addition to Romeo’s fine arts education and mentorship opportunities, I wish Sean and his staff much success.

I hope you enjoyed everything peachy over the Labor Day Holiday weekend. Thank you to the many volunteers, sponsors, parks & rec, and Romeo Lions for putting on such a safe and welcoming weekend of activities. I hope you caught “Live In The D” and other Romeo live coverage from WDIV and the MittTV showcasing all the fun going on around town. Thank you too to our Chamber of Commerce for organizing the Children’s Parade. Clerk Trapp, Caroline Miller, Madison Rousch and I donned our best Disney Character costumes and joined in the fun passing out candy and other goodies to all the smiling children and adults lining the route. Kudos to our Police, Fire and DPW for keeping us safe and tidy!

Here is an update on our Village Park. The Friends 501(c)3 held an in-person meeting on September 15th and have approved their contractor – Jason Arnott from Earth Environments to begin work. The Village has issued the necessary permits and construction is set to begin at the end of September on the demo and infrastructure work. It was also agreed upon, after many hours of planning, gathering input from our residents and Romeo Lions representatives that the beloved gazebo, will be returning to the Lions Field. Pending a safe journey to their Washington Street entrance it is slated to become their new ticket/information booth as a focal point to their entryway. They are happy to restore and repurpose this iconic Romeo structure. Finals plans and design for the new park gazebo/amphitheater are underway and should be submitted to the planning commission for review soon with that construction planned for next spring.

I report good news regarding the F5G lawsuit vs Romeo. After Clerk Trapp and I met with our legal team they were able to successfully convince the Plaintiff’s attorney to dismiss this case very early on without of need to file a Motion to Dismiss and/or for Summary Disposition. We have received a Stipulated Order for Dismissal Without Prejudice and consider this and all other legal matters regarding our Marijuana Business Licenses closed.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Romeo events.

The Tree Board Who has questions about the health of their trees, how to trim them and care for them? If you do, join the Romeo Tree Board tomorrow evening September 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Kezar Library and then The Village Park. Meet a MSU tree biologist and Michigan DNR urban forestry expert who will be available to answer your questions and provide instruction on real trees downtown!

Don’t miss the **Romeo Homecoming Parade** on September 28th at 6pm. The Parade starts at the Romeo Lions Club and heads north on Main Street! We look forward to seeing everyone cheering for our Bulldogs!

DDA ScreechFest Weekends are happening every weekend in October. The Village offices get so many phone calls every year with people wondering when trick or treating is – so mark your calendars for Saturday October 30th – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm for the Central Business District and Monday October 31st – 6:00 pm-8:00pm for traditional Halloween door-to-door.

As always My #1 priority is to 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.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Bruce Sewer Capacity Subcommittee – No report

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Church Street Parking Lot

MOTION by Fowler second by Parker to award the contract for construction of the Church Street municipal parking lots as designed, to the lowest bidder – Erth Con Excavating in the amount of \$146,124.00, based on recommendation of HRC.

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

- b. WWTP – Gear Box
MOTION by Bartholomew second by Parker to approve the purchase of the Gear Box Assembly from Evoqua Water Technologies in the amount of \$26,640.63
AYES: Bartholomew, Parker, Poznanski, Edwards, Hart, Malzahn, Fowler,
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- c. Citizen Task Force* (Added by Trustee Poznanski)
Discussion was held by the Trustees. No board action taken.
- d. Crosswalk Project* (Added by Trustee Poznanski)
Discussion was held by the Trustees. No board action taken.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. ZBA Stipend
MOTION by Parker second by Hart to approve the monthly stipend for all sitting Commissioners to receive \$75 per meeting annually attended effective October 1, 2022
AYES: Edwards, Hart, Fowler, Parker, Poznanski, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Abstained: Poznanski, Bartholomew
Motion carried.
- b. Ordinance Update-Water System Use Restrictions
MOTION by Hart second by Edwards to approve the Water Use Ordinance updates for irrigation purposes as presented
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- c. Ordinance Update-Parking Limitations in the CBD
MOTION by Hart second by Edwards to approve the ordinance amendments as prepared by legal counsel for changes to the posted parking limits and directional signs between Newberry and Washington Street
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- d. F5G LLC Lawsuit* (Added by Trustee Fowler)
Item was discussed by the Trustees. Lawsuit was dropped.
No board action taken.

11. Adjournment

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to adjourn the meeting [at 8:55 p.m.]
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,
KATHRYN TRAPP
VILLAGE CLERK**