

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
MINUTES**

**November 21, 2022**

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065  
South Building Meeting Room

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

1. **Call to order** – pledge of allegiance. Meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by President Malzahn.

2. **Roll Call**

3. **CONSENT AGENDA** (*minutes October 17, 2022*), (*council bills/vendor report \$45,498.23 and \$532,597.35, meeting agenda*)

**MOTION by Parker second by Poznanski to approve the agenda by adding item E. Lions Pack the Bus Event**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

**MOTION by Malzahn second by Edwards to approve the meeting minutes from October 17, 2022 with edits**

**AYES: Malzahn, Edwards, Poznanski, Fowler**

**NAYS: None**

**Abstain: Parker**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

**MOTION by Edwards second by Bartholomew to approve the council bills/vendor report in the amount of \$45,498.23 and \$532,597.35**

**AYES: Edwards, Bartholomew, Fowler, Malzahn**

**NAYS: Parker, Poznanski**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

4. **Special Presentations** – Swearing in of new Romeo Police Officer Robert Priest. Clerk Trapp swore in the new Romeo Policer officer, Officer Robert Priest.

5. **Correspondence(s)** – None

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

## 7. **Officer Reports**

- a. Treasurer (please see attached for submitted report)
- b. Clerk - I would like to say thank you to all of the voters that re-elected me to another term as your Village Clerk. I am very honored to continue in this office.  
I would also like to thank exiting President Christine Malzahn for the last 4 years. It was an honor and privilege to work with you. The Village has really grown and prospered under your leadership. Thank you.  
Welcome to the new electeds.  
This past Thursday I attended the SEMCOG Transportation Council in Detroit. A list of upcoming traffic projects in the tri-county area was provided.  
Also, on Thursday I chaired the Macomb County Clerks Association meeting. There was a lot of discussion on this past election. Also, there will be a new software update coming to the Register of Deeds to make searching for items easier.
- c. Trustees –  
Trustee Poznanski – Thank you to the exiting members  
Trustee Edwards – Thank you to the voters for voting him in, thanked President Christine, thanked Bob Hart  
Trustee Parker – Masonic Lodge is having a dinner on Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited. Congratulated Alma College “Alma Scots” Football team. Lot of Romeo Bulldogs were there and the coach is a former Romeo Bulldog.
- d. EX Officio Planning Commission Member – no report
- e. President - Let me begin with a few construction updates.

The **14-space Church Street Parking Lot** project is completed, just in time for the holiday shopping season and tree lighting festivities! Erth-Con Excavating did an excellent job with the construction of this project, and hats off to Les Young who did the masonry work... the capstones are the perfect finishing touch.

Another amazing project nearing completion is the **new 32 Mile sidewalk extension**. The sidewalk is OFFICIALLY OPEN to pedestrians! Now our students have a safe walking route to the middle school campus on the south side of the road, not to mention that our pedestrians and bicyclists can now get from Copperwood Commons all the way to DownTown Romeo or the Macomb Orchard Trail on this gorgeous new sidewalk. I spoke with project manager Mike MacDonald from Hubbell Roth and Clark last week and was surprised to learn that the light poles will be installed this week (not next spring as we were anticipating).

**Village Park** Progress update! The walkways have been cut out and limestone spread out as the base for the concrete walkways with the restored brick pathway as the border for them. We are moving along at record pace to have the park phase one ready for Santa's arrival on December 1st.! Thanks to Les Young who is our expert mason on this project - he found the concrete we needed even though there is a shortage out there. We had to make some changes to the brick pattern to accommodate the difference, which will make the dance floor even more beautiful in the long run.

The **Pedestrian Crosswalk project** has two small checklist items left, one is the caulking and the other is an asphalt leveling fill on the corner of Washington and Lafayette.

Regarding the area in front of Masonic Temple, Rowe Engineering has offered a \$5,000 credit to be used for whatever installation is agreed upon next spring to address the large step area.

I would also like to address the large crack in asphalt that is near the corner of Newberry and Main that was referenced by Trustee Parker in his recent letter to the editor claiming that the project was failed. The Crosswalk project was never intended, plus the work never included, repairs to the failing existing asphalt.

Van Dyke and 32 Mile (Main and St. Clair) are Macomb County Roads not Romeo's responsibility. Repairs to that section of road (and other notable crevasses') would fall under their jurisdiction and the County would incur the cost of repairing that infrastructure. Rowe Engineering and I inquired with the Road Commission about the failing surface areas and requested them to consider at least fixing the areas of concern where our project was going to be installed, we were told that nowhere within their foreseeable future project plans would they be addressing those two roads.

The red surface treatment is not and was not intended to "fill" the crack and is NOT failing in its application, it is unfortunate that the "red" epoxy does make the crack more noticeable however.

At any one of the on-sight meetings, if you had chosen to attend Trustee Parker, you would have heard first-hand discussion about these areas and the over-all project. You would have been able to ask your questions directly to the Contractors, the Macomb Department of Roads onsite inspector or the onsite engineering inspector and thus been able to provide a accurate account of what happened and why the crack is there.

**L&L Products** – I am very pleased to announce that L&L products has chosen to expand their facility here in Romeo. L&L President Tim Klieno and his staff reached out to me in February 2022 as they were researching expansion opportunities in one of two locations – Romeo and South Carolina. Upon hearing that they were weighing the pros and cons and looking for the highest incentive package in their decision making, I engaged JP Rea and his MEDC team. Determined to NOT let this opportunity escape Macomb County, all worked with our state legislators and utilities to offer L&L every incentive to stay right here in Romeo. This invest of \$11 million dollars right in our community is a huge victory and I could not be prouder to have played a part in making it happen.

#### **Mark your calendars for these upcoming Romeo events.**

Do not miss **Romeo's Annual Santa Parade and Tree Lighting** – Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 pm. The parade route is along Main Street from Washington to Newberry and into the Village Park.

[Romeo Historical Society's Home Tour](#) is coming up on Dec 03, 2022, 12:00 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Tickets are available at many downtown businesses.

#### **Romeo Chamber of Commerce EMMA Awards -**

Friday, December 9, 2022 5:30 PM. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of these prestigious Awards. This year they have Roaring 20's theme. So, get out your favorite flapper dresses and Gatsby Suits, grab a ticket and enjoy a fun filled evening of food, drink, and awards.

**Lastly**, I want to thank every one of you for the opportunity to have served you over the last 10 years. As your president during the last 4-years it was my true privilege to work for you every day, bringing much needed financial stability, growth opportunities, and

My goal on day 1 was to leave Romeo better from my leadership and I can honestly say that on day 1,462 that goal is complete. I need only look out my window and walk down the street to see my successes.

While of course I am disappointed that my service here in Romeo is over, I am very excited at the new opportunities that are already presenting themselves and to see where God leads me next. I wish my successor congratulations and good luck during her tenure.

I am grateful for all the acknowledgement and messages of thanks that I have received in recognition of my efforts on your behalf, and leave you with this quote from *American author, salesman, and motivational speaker* Zig Ziglar:

Success means doing the best we can with what we have. Success is the doing, not the getting; in the trying, not the triumph. Success is a personal standard, reaching for the highest that is in us, becoming all that we can be."

#### **8. Committee Reports – No Committees.**

#### **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Bruce Twp Sewer Request Update\*

Trustee Poznanski did attend the Bruce Township Trustee meeting in the prior week to discuss this topic. No board action taken.

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. DDA Special Event Permit – Winterfest

Winterfest Permit was presented by Elizabeth Miller, DDA Executive Director

**MOTION by Parker second by Edwards to approve the date and the 5K run and table the rest of the activities per DDA funding approvals**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

- b. Radar Signs Purchase Approval

**MOTION by Fowler second by Parker to approve the purchase of two illuminated radar speed limit signs from Evolis in the amount of \$6499.00 for First Street [Eastbound] and Washington Street [Northbound]**

**AYES: Fowler, Parker, Poznanski, Bartholomew, Edwards, Malzahn**

**NAYS: None**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

- c. GLWA Industrial Water Users Contract

**MOTION by Bartholomew second by Poznanski to approve the contract amendments as noted in scenario #2 and have the agreements executed**

**AYES: Bartholomew, Poznanski, Edwards, Parker, Malzahn, Fowler**

**NAYS: None**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

- d. Board Appointed Trustee Vacancy Discussion\*

**MOTION by Poznanski second by Fowler to table this discussion until the December meeting**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

- e. Lions Stuff the Bus Permit (added item)

Lions member Jamie Lucero spoke about this event. At the time of the meeting no permits have been submitted.

**MOTION by Parker second by Fowler to approve event on December 18, 2022**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION by Malzahn second by Poznanski to adjourn the meeting [at 8:41 p.m.]**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Absent: Hart**

**Motion carried.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathryn Trapp**