

**Minutes of the Village of Waterman Board held at Village Hall 215 W. Adams St. Waterman, IL 60556
Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Robinson, Radtke, Sedlacek, Feitlich, Pearson, Genslinger and Johanningsmeier were present.

Approve Agenda: Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the agenda as published. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the February 13, 2024 regular meeting minutes as amended. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Accept Council Approval Reports: Trustee Feitlich motioned to accept the Council Approval Reports as published. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Accept Petty Cash Report: Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the petty cash report as published. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Accept Treasurer's Funds Report: Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the Treasurer's Fund Report as published. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Mayor's Report: President Robinson informed the Board that the Northern Illinois Mayor's Association reinstated their dues of \$125.00 per year. This annual expense to the Village will maintain the Village President's membership.

Request for Consideration: Nothing

Correspondence: Village Manager, Nykaza announced that Waterman received an honorable mention award from the Illinois Department of Public Health for maintaining compliance for the past 11 months.

Staff Reports

Chief Swanson – Nothing

Village Manager Nykaza – Recently completed a two-day grant writing class, which was very informative. As part of the ComEd Light Program Grant, all lights have been replaced in Village Hall with LEDs. Waiting for quote regarding streetlight LED replacements, which will save money and provide brighter lighting in Green Ridge. Attended the Dekalb County Enhancing County Infrastructure Planning meeting with President Robinson and are planning to meet with the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District Executive Director, Mark Eddington, to discuss plans of potentially joining a sanitary district. Attended a Cyber Security Webinar on March 6th and will plan to connect with insurance to verify that Waterman is in compliance.

Attorney Neveu – Updates will be provided during closed session.

Public Works – Matt Conlin: Maintaining all equipment to prepare for the upcoming summer season. The new Bobcat Skid steer has been ordered and should arrive in April.

Committee Reports

Water & Sewer – Adam Pearson: Nothing

Streets & Alleys – Arnie Johanningsmeier: Preparing budget discussion for crack sealing and road patching.

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Public Safety – Suzanne Sedlacek: Provided update on the March 8th Committee Meeting. Gold Shield Proposal was discussed. Hiring a consultant to audit the WPD will confirm if the Public Safety Act changes are being followed as well as all other policies. Trustee Radtke expressed the desire for the Board to be informed of best practices and to ensure that the budget aligns with police department needs, as well as build an adequate police force for the growing community. The Committee made recommendation to the board to hire Gold Shield.

Buildings & Grounds – Alison Genslinger: Trustee Genslinger notified the Board of a needed gate repair at the dog park and that the flag located at the baseball field needs to be replaced.

Trustee Sedlacek notified the Board that her neighbor is an arborist for the Village of Montgomery. He has offered, at no charge to the Village, to look over the oak tree at Lions Park for root damage.

Finance & Personnel – Tony Feitlich: Provided updates of the budget meetings held on February 20th & 26th and March 5th. Discussed how to handle the Utility Deposit Account and to determine if Waterman is in accordance with state statute regarding franchise fees. Discussed FY25 budget.

Economic Development – Sarah Radtke: 208 W. Lincoln has sold. The buyer will be utilizing the awarded TIF funds to improve the property.

Zoning – Sarah Radtke: Updated on the March 21st meeting. Dekalb County is expanding their enterprise zone. They have reached out to the impacted areas in the enterprise zone as they must approve of the amended boundaries. Plan to discuss the increased interest in gaming facilities.

Special Hiring – Johanningsmeier: Nothing

Planning Commission – John Ecker: Village Manager, Nykaza provided update on the February 20th meeting. Still working to finalize the Comprehensive Plan.

Regional Planning Commission – John Ecker: Nothing

Public Comment: Alexandra Bee, Stephen Siebler, Jesus Rodriguez, Monique Foland and Marcellina Buonicone, and Chuck Breese expressed their concerns regarding the status of the department. Residents also expressed their frustration with the Village's oversight to notify the Fire Department and first responders of local police absence. Trustee Feitlich informed the public speakers the lack of police presence was due to Chief Swanson being placed on an unpaid 30-day suspension and would be returning March 13th. Without a supervisor, part-time officers could not legally be on duty. During this time, the Village attempted to find an interim Chief and reached out to request increased patrol from County. Clerk Pool advised we performed a wage analysis last fiscal year and increased the PD's wages to be competitive.

Old Business: Nothing

New Business: Trustee Sedlacek motioned to approve the Gold Shield Contract at \$15,000.00. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

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Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to approve the FY25 Holiday Closing Schedule. Trustee Feitlich 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to approve the FY25 Board Meeting Schedule. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Trustee Pearson motioned to enter executive session under subsection number 11 of Section 2(c) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss open legal and personnel matters. Trustee Feitlich 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Closed Session – Legal

Attorney Neveu provided updates on open legal and personnel matters. Trustee Feitlich motioned to exit executive session. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Adjournment:

Having no further business to conduct, Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Trustee Feitlich 2nd. Vote passed unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Pool

Approved