

**Minutes of the Village of Waterman Board held at Village Hall 215 W. Adams St. Waterman, IL 60556
Tuesday, July 9, 2024**

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

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

Approve Agenda: Trustee Sedlacek motioned to approve the agenda as published. Trustee Feitlich 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the June 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 3/0 with Trustees Johanningsmeier and Pearson abstaining and President Robinson voting.

Accept Council Approval Reports: Trustee Feitlich motioned to accept the Council Approval Reports as published. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Accept Petty Cash Report: Trustee Johanningsmeier motioned to approve the petty cash report as published. Trustee Feitlich 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Accept Treasurer's Funds Report: Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the Treasurer's Fund Report as published. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Mayor's Report: President Robinson and Village Manager, Nykaza attended the luncheon with Representative Brad Fritts on July 9th.

Request for Consideration: None

Correspondence: None

Staff Reports

Chief Swanson – Swanson provided the June stats report, which showed that activity was down. June 19th-20th, Swanson worked with Joe Altmann, with Fortress Plus Solutions, to complete the audit of the evidence vault. Submitted membership application with Illinois Association of Property and Evidence Managers. June 25th filed an ordinance complaint with Dekalb Circuit Court regarding the tall grass in the Deerfield Crossing subdivision. June 26th-27th, attended the "Identifying Threats and Keeping Schools Safe" and "Profiling Dangerous People, School Shooters, Mass Murderers and Serial Killers Homicide Training" with Ofc. Vandergrift. Received firework complaints from multiple residents on North Cedar regarding incidents that occurred on June 19th, 26th, 28th. The accused person was out of town from June 20th-28th and provided evidence to support that. For the report received on the 28th, the same accused person, who was back in town, was apprehended by Dekalb Deputies with bottle rockets in their possession. The apprehended person received a verbal warning and was told that they would be charged next time. Reminder that Summerfest will be held on July 20th.

Village Manager Nykaza – Lennar Homes has put in an offer to purchase 92 lots in the Deerfield Crossings subdivision with the closing scheduled sometime this fall. The Finance and Personnel Committee will work to finalize the amendments to the Annexation Agreement by August to present them for review. Nick Bhati (Purchaser of Houlahan's Pub & Grill) is working with his architect to send over the required information for permit submittal. The audit of the police evidence room was completed in June. Plans are in place to proceed accordingly with the findings to ensure that the evidence room is maintained properly moving forward. Applied for \$5,000.00 body camera reimbursement grant through NCICG. In the process of applying for AED (automated external defibrillator) grants in the amount of \$6,043.00, which would be

**Minutes of the Village of Waterman Board held at Village Hall 215 W. Adams St. Waterman, IL 60556
Tuesday, July 9, 2024 - continued**

used to purchase new AED kits to place in all squad cars and in the office. Waterman is on IDOT's schedule for 2025 to have Rt. 30 resurfaced. Per BNSF's request, the Village will plan to replace the pedestrian crossing gates during the RT. 30 resurfacing project. Working with Chastain & Associates to prepare the details of this project, which will also include adding ADA sidewalks along Rt. 30.

Attorney Neveu – Announced that she will have a full update for the Board at next month's meeting regarding the purchase of the Clinton Township Community Building.

Public Works – Matt Conlin: Completed spraying the weeds at the sewage plant. Currently working to maintain the parks and prepare for Summerfest.

Committee Reports

Water & Sewer – Adam Pearson: Village Manager, Nykaza stated that the IDOT permit has been submitted for the repair of the water main break located near Birch Street. The water main repair will begin sometime after Summerfest.

Streets & Alleys – Arnie Johanningsmeier: Nothing

Public Safety – Suzanne Sedlacek: Provided update on June 25th meeting. Discussed the ownership status of the 1991 Caprice. Part time Officer, Frank Beierlotzer agreed to purchase the vehicle from the Village for \$1.00 but will be solely responsible for the title change, insurance and registration. Discussed officers' completing a daily activity log and implementing a strategic shift scheduling to ensure that the town has proper coverage. Reviewed changes to the auxiliary officer ordinance.

Buildings & Grounds – Alison Genslinger: Village Manager, Nykaza informed the Board that Trustee Genslinger sent out a survey to Green Ridge residents via Facebook to obtain ideas for the Garfield Park expansion. An audience member suggested that the Village consider putting a Slow Down Children Present sign on Garfield Street near the park due to speeding vehicles.

Finance & Personnel – Tony Feitlich: Nothing

Economic Development – Sarah Radtke: Nothing

Zoning – Sarah Radtke: Nothing

Special Hiring – Johanningsmeier: Provided update on June 17th meeting. Discussed the job description for the Police Chief position and instructed Manager Nykaza to post the position with multiple organizations. The response deadline is 30 days.

Planning Commission – John Ecker: Nothing

Regional Planning Commission – John Ecker: Village Manager, Nykaza informed the Board that Waterman hosted the Regional Planning Commission meeting on June 27th with 14 people in attendance, including herself and John Ecker. Next meeting is scheduled for September 8.

**Minutes of the Village of Waterman Board held at Village Hall 215 W. Adams St. Waterman, IL 60556
Tuesday, July 9, 2024 - continued**

Public Comment: Resident Larry Mason questioned the Board as to why they are replacing Chief Swanson. Attorney Neveu explained that the Finance and Personnel Committee decided that the current staffing, within the Police Department, was not meeting the Village's growing needs. It was then recommended by the Committee and approved by the Board to make some personnel changes within that department. Chief Swanson advised he had a copy of his 30-day suspension letter he could read out loud. Resident Joseph Siciliano stated maybe some of the audience members' questions would be addressed by Ofc. Swanson reading his suspension letter out loud. Village President Robinson advised Chief Swanson he did not recommend doing so at that time. Resident Raymond Calhoun questioned the circumstances of Ofc. Tyler Erickson's termination. Attonery Neveu explained that his termination was due to a change in his availability (one day per week) which did not meet the Village's needs. Resident Alexandra Bee questioned why there are available funds to hire a new Chief of Police but not the funds in the budget to hire more officers within the department. Trustee Feitlich explained our previous search for additional part-time officers recently. None of the applicants were a good fit for WPD. The Board determined an audit of the PD was necessary. The Gold Shield Audit Report was presented to the Board, and this is how the decision was made to hire a new Chief of Police. Resident Nicole Townsley asked how many officers the Village currently has on staff. Chief Swanson advised we have four officers. Resident Mike Mitchell asked about the status of the sewage plant. Trustee Johanningsmeier stated that they are currently working through many components to address the need to expand water and sewage plant capacity. Resident Scott Ahlsted expressed his concern regarding the speeding vehicles on Garfield Street. President Robinson stated that safety signs will be ordered tomorrow and will be up in the coming weeks. Chuck Breese asked for clarification regarding who has the proper authority to terminate/hire the Police Chief position as he feels that Village Code conflicts with State Law. Attorney Neveu explained that the process for hiring and appointing for Village positions is done through the advice and consent of the Board, with the Village President's approval. Resident Gary Taylor expressed his support for Chief Swanson and the Waterman Police Department. Chuck Breese continued his time by stating that he did not agree with the changes made to the auxiliary officer ordinance. There was lengthy discussion regarding what type of government Waterman is and the process of hiring, terminating, and appointing procedures and how state statutes compare to Waterman ordinances.

Old Business: Trustee Sedlacek motioned to approve transferring ownership of the 1991 Caprice to Frank Beierlotzer for \$1.00. Trustee Feitlich 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

New Business: Trustee Feitlich motioned to adopt renumbering Ordinance 2024-02: Amending Title 4, Chapter 1 "Auxiliary Officer" to Ordinance 2024-05. Trustee Sedlacek 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Trustee Feitlich motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-06: Waiving Competitive Bid Requirements for Well #4 emergency repairs. Trustee Johanningsmeier 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the material bid for Well #4 Emergency Valve Project from Core & Main to not exceed \$40,000.00. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the contractor bid for Well #4 Emergency Valve Project from Dahme Mechanical Industries, Inc. to not exceed \$47,000.00. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Closed Session – Legal

No closed session needed; Attorney Neveu did not have any updates.

**Minutes of the Village of Waterman Board held at Village Hall 215 W. Adams St. Waterman, IL 60556
Tuesday, July 9, 2024 - continued**

Public Comment (Continued): Resident Courtnee Grommes asked that a safety sign be placed on Monroe Street near the water tower due to speeding vehicles. The Board said they would address her request accordingly.

Adjournment:

Having no further business to conduct, Trustee Feitlich motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Trustee Pearson 2nd. Vote passed unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Pool

Approved