

**Minutes of the Village of Waterman Board held at Village Hall 215 W. Adams St. Waterman, IL 60556  
Tuesday, August 13, 2024**

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

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

**Approve Agenda:** Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the agenda as published. Trustee Genslinger 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

**Approve Meeting Minutes:** Trustee Sedlacek motioned to approve the July 9, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Trustee Feitlich 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote passed 4/0 with Trustees Radtke and Genslinger abstaining.

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

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

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

**Mayor's Report:** President Robinson plans to attend the ComEd seminar on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dekalb County Library. Also planning to attend the Kishwaukee Water & Sewer Reclamation meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Request for Consideration: None**

**Correspondence:** President Robinson read a letter received from Waterman Lions Club praising the success of Waterman's 2024 Summerfest & Tractor Show. Enclosed was a \$500.00 donation to the Village as a thank you for the services provided for the event.

**Staff Reports**

**Chief Swanson** – Swanson provided the July stats report, which showed that activity was down. Summerfest went well with no major incidents reported. Submitted application to the International Association for Property & Evidence and will take the offered online training courses. Spoke with Representative for the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks to discuss the legislative push to change DOT regulations for truck weights increasing it from 80,000 to 91,000 lbs., which would be damaging to our roads and potentially hazardous. Will be attending the Midwest Security and Police Expo August 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Village Manager Nykaza** – Still waiting for IDOT's response regarding the water main repair near Birch Street. Representative Brad Fritts' office assisted with reaching out to IDOT to move the project forward. An inoperable fire hydrant will be fixed during this project as well. Nick Bhati (Purchaser of Houlahan's Pub & Grill) has reached out to inform us that his architect is still working on the plans for permit submittal, which has been the reason for the delay. Waterman has been placed on IDOT's list for resurfacing Rt. 30 in 2025. The Village will plan to replace the railroad pedestrian crossing gates and install ADA ramps and sidewalks along Rt. 30 during the resurfacing project. Met with Mark Eddington (Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District) to discuss the process of Waterman moving into a sanitary district. Materials for Well #4 project have been ordered and once delivered the contractors will be contacted.

**Attorney Porter** – Updates will be provided during closed session.

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**Public Works – Matt Conlin:** Completed meter reads for utility bills last week. Scott Hunt assisted with adjusting the fit of the leaf box for the One Ton truck. Plan to bring the One Ton truck to Bonnell Industries by early September to install the leaf box to prepare for leaf pickup this fall.

**Committee Reports**

**Water & Sewer – Adam Pearson: Nothing**

**Streets & Alleys – Arnie Johanningsmeier:** Plans in place for sidewalk repair and crack sealing projects.

**Public Safety – Suzanne Sedlacek: Nothing**

**Buildings & Grounds – Alison Genslinger:** Provided updates from meeting held on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Discussed the Garfield Park expansion project and presented resident suggestions obtained in the survey. Working to apply for a grant and reaching out to local agencies for donations to assist with financing park projects.

**Finance & Personnel – Tony Feitlich: Nothing**

**Economic Development – Sarah Radtke: Nothing**

**Zoning – Sarah Radtke: Nothing**

**Special Hiring – Johanningsmeier:** Provided updates from meeting held on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Interviewed two potential Police Chief candidates. The ad will run through August 21<sup>st</sup>. Application ad for open full-time and part-time officer positions will run through August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Planning Commission – John Ecker: Nothing**

**Regional Planning Commission – John Ecker: Nothing**

**Public Comment:** Alexandra Bee questioned why the police applications are running through the Village Manager. President Robinson stated that the Board consensus was that the Village Manager would filter through the submitted police applications to prepare them for the Chief of Police's final decision. Alexandra Bee went on to ask if any plans were in the works to modify the parks or implement programs to accommodate older children during the winter season. Joseph Baczek questioned why the Village is conducting interviews for a Chief of Police position when the Village already has a Chief in place. Lyne Meyerholz questioned if there were plans to build a more adequate police department headquarters. President Robinson said this is something currently in the works. Steve Morgan expressed his thoughts regarding the Board's decision to search for a new Chief of Police. Patricia Liberty-Baczek expressed her thoughts regarding the Village's lawsuit against Peter Robinson and the current situation with the Waterman PD. Mark Wojcik questioned where he can find information regarding the Waterman PD audit report. Trustee Sedlacek stated that he can review the Gold Shield Report on the Village's website. Joseph Siciliano said that he doesn't agree with the Board's decision to hire a new Chief of Police when Chief Swanson has been taking the proper training and precautions due to the findings of the Gold Shield Audit. Bryan Wagner expressed his support for Chief Jason Swanson. Ray Calhoun expressed his opinion

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regarding how Waterman’s system of government functions. Attorney Porter responded to clarify that the system of government Waterman has adopted, as outlined in State law and in the Village ordinances,

is governed by a Board. Former Chief of Police, Chuck Breese stated his concern regarding the language used in the Special Hiring Committee’s posted agenda for the meeting held on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Feitlich stated that verbiage for meeting agendas must follow State statutes as outlined in the Open Meetings Act and cannot be modified. Chuck Breese went on to say that when serving as the Chief of Police for Waterman he faced many of the same obstacles outlined in the Gold Shield Report. Tracy Mason asked the Board if they took any measures to place Chief Swanson on a corrective action plan. Due to personnel privacy laws the Board cannot address the question. Tim Oswald expressed his support for the Waterman PD.

**Old Business:** Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve transferring the 1991 Caprice to Frank Bierlotzer. Trustee Sedlacek 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote passed 6/0.

Attorney Neveu is still working through the details regarding the potential transfer of the Clinton Township Community Building to the Village.

**New Business:** Trustee Feitlich motioned to approve the Core & Main water meter project agreement. Trustee Radtke 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote passed 5/1.

Trustee Pearson motioned to approve the Sensus USA Inc. software & service agreement. Trustee Feitlich 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote passed 5/1.

**Closed Session – Legal - Nothing**

**Adjournment:**

Having no further business to conduct, Trustee Sedlacek motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Trustee Feitlich 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote passed unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Abigail Pool

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Approved