

**VILLAGE OF BISMARCK**  
County of Vermilion, State of Illinois  
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, February 23, 2021

1. At 6:30 p.m. in the Village office located at 106 E. Holloway, Bismarck, Illinois, President Brown opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll call was taken by Clerk Brandye Kizer. Board members present were Trustees Terry Light, Kris Kizer, Sheila Switzer, Karel Volpert, Mary Potter and Jane Cress (by phone), President Mike Brown and Treasurer Adam Muehl. A quorum was established.  
  
Guests: Village Board Candidate Jeff Beukelman; Mike Davis and Dave Biggerstaff with the Central Illinois Land Bank (via Zoom).
3. Approval of agenda for February 23, 2021 was made on a motion by Karel Volpert, and seconded by Trustee Terry Light. The motion passed by acclamation.
4. Approval of the Minutes for Regular Board Meeting held on January 19, 2021, was made on a motion by Trustee Terry Light and seconded by Trustee Kris Kizer. Motion passed by acclamation.
5. Public Comments/Questions: Mr. Mike Davis and Mr. Dave Biggerstaff gave a presentation on the Central Illinois Land Bank and how it could help revitalize Bismarck. They discussed that they have funds that could be used to purchase buildings that are in despair and repair them and then sell them. It allows the communities to keep property values up and help communities not have derelict buildings that devalue communities. They mentioned they have programs that may be able to help current property owners that are in despair. They would love for the Village to partner with them and in doing so the Village would only pay for services rendered by the hour. There would be a contract that would be completed together between the Land Bank and the Village. The Village Board would need to review current ordinances and pass ordinances needed. The Village would need to investigate the current Illinois Codes. The Village Board will discuss it at a future meeting in April.

President Brown discussed that Community Member Dan Wright wanted to know if there could be a pop machine placed outside the Village Office. Several Board members discussed the placement back by the Maintenance building instead of by the Village office. Concerns about how that would look was discussed. There was discussion of the cost to have a pop machine placed in the Village, there were no objections if it was doable cost wise, as long as it was not placed in front of the Village Office. President Brown and Mr. Wright will look into the expectations and cost of a pop machine.

6. President's Comments: President Brown welcomed everyone to the Village Meeting and thanked them for coming. President Brown stated that he finally was able to get the SAM account resolved hopefully. The Village plow truck broke down during the last snowfall and he was able to get a couple of helpers to help with plowing the Village streets. Thank you to both gentlemen for taking care of the Village during the large snow storm of 2021.

Trustee Jane Cress wanted to thank Dan Wright, Village Maintenance Personnel for clearing sidewalks for the kids to walk to school and even made a path for the kids who get dropped off to Miss Jane at the corner. He also put out salt on the sidewalks in front of the school on a day the school did not. It was very much appreciated.

7. Correspondence: None Noted

8. Treasurer Adam Muehl presented Treasurer’s report. Treasurer Adam Muehl stated that the bills for this month are all usual bills. Treasurer Adam Muehl requested approval for payment of bills for \$ 2,227.88. The majority of the bills paid out this month are for regular and recurring bills, with the exception that the Department of Animal Regulation billed for 1 impound and there was the \$300.00 fee to CliftonLarsonAllen for completion of W-2’s.

Trustee Mary Potter made a motion to approve treasurer’s report and bills, with a second by Trustee Kris Kizer, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jane Cress- Yea	Terry Light- Yea	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Karel Volpert- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

Treasurer Adam Muehl reported that the account balances as of 1/31/2021 are as follows: New General Fund is \$167,947.73; Old General Fund \$14,264.41; Motor Fuel Fund \$25,690.64 and TIF \$45,169.76.

Treasurer Adam Muehl discussed that he needs approval to transfer \$9,346.88 from Old General Fund to the New General Fund. Trustee Karel Volpert made a motion to approve, with a second by Trustee Sheila Switzer, to approve the transfer of funds as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jane Cress- Yea	Terry Light- Yea	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Karel Volpert- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

9. Reports of committees and assignments

a. Budget and Finance

i. Clerk Brandye Kizer stated that she had reviewed the catalogs from Arnolds and the desks were quite pricey. Discussion of Habitat for Humanity or the CLerk looking at online options. There was one line in the Arnolds book that would be affordable, but the Clerk would need to go in and make sure she is understanding the pricing correctly. Treasurer Adam Muehl stated that there are funds in the budget to get a new desk for under \$500.

b. **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)-** No updates at this time

c. **Public Works/Municipal Projects (Roads, Drainage, other improvements)**

**i. MFT Funded Projects**

- a. Village Basins (MFT Funds)- no updates at this time due to weather.
- b. Village Office- Concrete repair (MFT funds)- No updates at this time.
- c. Village Alley and Ditch repair (MFT Funds)- No updates at this time.
- d. Charlesworth- Pothole repair (MFT funds)- No update due to weather.
- e. MFT Funding- Rebuild Illinois- No Update at this time. Board discussed that when roadwork is being completed, Ribbe needs to give at least a week's notice so the Village can get roads repaired where needed before Tar and chip is put down.

**d. Public Works (non-MFT Funds)**

i. President Brown would like to get the Village Board's input on what Building improvements along Holloway (Bowman to Chicago) they see that may need to be completed. President Brown asked the Village Board members if there were any items they felt needed completed. President Brown mentioned concerns with the sidewalks by old laundry mat and whether that is the Village or State responsibilities since its on the State Route Road. The Village Board will need to investigate who the sidewalks responsibilities belong to. President Brown stated that he felt that the Village would need to look at placing more sidewalks in the Village over time and as money allows. He also discussed the siding on the little store and whether that needed to be replaced.

ii. President Brown is still continuing to investigate the tankless water heaters options and will revisit for the Board's approval to purchase a tankless water heater at a future meeting. He is waiting on a return call from a friend about what are some quality tankless heaters. right now there is no hot water in the bathroom of the Maintenance garage.

iii. President Brown asked the board if they had come up with any ideas regarding the Village signs. Trustee Sheila Switzer would like to have the signs replaced and have a more modern look. She inquired whether the school district could utilize the project for learning, Possibly have the students come up with different designs and then have the community vote on which one they like the best. Then they can also possibly use a class to build the signs for the Village. Mr. Jeff Beukelman, who is a high school teacher, gave some suggestions on how to inquire about asking the teachers to participate. He was able to give email addresses to the Clerk and the Clerk will distribute to Trustee Sheila Switzer to reach out after Mr. Beukelman (Key Club) discusses it with teachers Ms. Katie Post (LArt/Graphic Design) and Ms. Amy DeGoyler (FFA). The Village Board will discuss finances for completion of signs, such as size, wood, materials, at a future meeting once they know if the high school students will be able to assist. Trustee Karel Volpert stated that Keep Vermilion County Beautiful has funds that may be used for Village signs. The Village would pay the cost in advance but would then be reimbursed for the approved amount. Trustee Sheila Switzer will be in charge of this project with assistance from Trustee Karel Volpert for KVCB funds.

**e. Health and Safety**

i. New Health and Safety Ordinance Complaints

a. Trustee Terry Light discussed that night court is no longer held at night and is now called Municipal Court and is held during the day. He stated that the Village must go through their regular ordinance process and then issue a citation if the resident does not comply. The process is: mail a 30 day letter, then a 10 day letter, then a citation. Once the citation is issued then the Village can send the citation to the Municipal Court and the resident will be issued a court date. Trustee Terry Light is getting clarification as to where would the Village get the citation sheets to deliver to the residents not in compliance with the ordinances.

b. Property at 27518 N 1800 East Rd has not had any building improvements and the board agreed to send a letter to owner, Don Evans.

c. Property at 111 E. South St has had no building improvements and the board agreed to send a letter to the owner, Don Evans.

d. The property at 9 E. Holloway needs cleanup of the property and building repairs and cleanup. Letter will be sent to owner Don Evans.

e. The property at 13 W. South St has non-functioning and non-licensed vehicles and vehicles that are parked along the roadway that are also obstructing the view of drivers who are stopped at the stop sign on South and Myers. Letter will be mailed to owners at the address (Holman).

f. The property at 9 W. South St needs yard cleanup. Letter will be mailed to owners, Stark.

Motion to send letters for Ordinance Violations was made by Trustee Kris Kizer, with a second by Trustee Sheila Switzer. Motion passed by acclamation.

ii. Public Safety Committee- Police Officer

a. President Brown and Trustee Terry Light discussed that they are continuing discussion with Mayor Troy Wolfe about the possibility of joining forces with the Village of Henning to partner with a joint Police Officer. There are some concerns with legality concerns from the Village of Henning's attorney and the cost for the services. There is also a concern due to the upcoming passage of the new Law Enforcement law that is on the Governor's desk. President Brown and Trustee Terry Light will keep Board members up to date on discussions. No decisions to be made at this time.

**f. Ordinance**

- i. President Brown discussed the cancelation of the special board meeting in January due to weather concerns. Will discuss at next month's meeting if there needs to be another special meeting scheduled.
- ii. President Brown discussed that the Bismarck Men's Club will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year and would like to have a street celebration.

They would need Village permission to block off a side street as they cannot block off Holloway, as it is a State Route. The Village Board members discussed the matter and agreed by vote to allow the blocking of a couple of side roads temporarily for the event. The Men's Club will need to reach out to all residents affected on those streets to make sure they are aware of the road blockage and to allow them access to and from their driveways.

Motion to approve the Men's Club Street Celebration was made by Trustee Kris Kizer, with a second by Trustee Terry Light. Motion passed by acclamation.

**g.** Permits- No permits received.

**h.** Keep Bismarck Beautiful (KBB)

i. Trustee Karel Volpert reported that there will be an electronics collection on May 8th at DACC. Time is unknown at this time. The Great American Cleanup is April 18th and needs volunteers. Earth day is April 22 and Arbor Day is April 30th. She reported that Adopt a Spot collected 246 bags of trash in 2020 and if interested in adopting a spot you can reach out to Steve Lane at Keep Vermilion County Beautiful. Clerk will post on Village's website, facebook page and in newsletter once we know of a time for the Electronics event.

**10. Old Business**

**11. New Business**

**12. Date and Time of Next Meeting** – The next regular meeting of the Bismarck Village Board will be held at the Village Office in Bismarck, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m. on March 16, 2021. Bills to be considered for payment and items for the agenda are to be submitted by March 9th, 2021 to Village Clerk and Village Treasurer.

**13. Adjournment** – With no further business to come before the Board at this time, upon motion by Trustee Terry Light, with a second by Trustee Kris Kizer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandye Kizer, Clerk

**APPROVED 3/16/2021**