

# VILLAGE OF BISMARCK

## County of Vermilion, State of Illinois

### Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, November 21, 2023

1. At 6:31 p.m. in the Village office located at 106 E. Holloway, Bismarck, Illinois, President Brown opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Brown took roll call. Board members present were Trustees Terry Light, Sheila Switzer, Mary Potter, Jeff Beukelman, Tyler Lappin and President Mike Brown. Treasurer Adam Muehl and Village Code Enforcement Officer Charles Stahl were also in attendance. Trustee Kris Kizer and Clerk Brandye Kizer were late (6:51pm). A quorum was established. Audience members in attendance were Rick Kentner, Cole Heidrick, Mitchell Harper, Patti Welker, Kari and Chris Hamilton, Kirby and Sierra Reich, Carol McCubbin, Bruce Johnson and Tom Kentner.
3. Approval of agenda was made on a motion and second. The motion passed by acclamation.
4. Approval of the minutes for Regular Board Meeting held on October 17<sup>h</sup>, 2023, was made on a motion and a second. Motion passed by acclamation.
5. Public Comments/Questions: Mr. Tom Kentner addressed the board with concerns about a potential Solar Farm on 2650 N Road. This is not property owned by Mr. Kentner and he is concerned about the negative effects a solar farm may cause if placed on that land. He inquired if the Village Board of Trustees had been contacted. The Village Board has not had any company or property owner reach out about a potential solar farm. There have been inquiries about whether the Village has any ordinances, and the Village Board has started discussion on if that is something needed. President Brown stated that at this time the Village does not have any ordinances regarding solar or wind farm and revert that back to county ordinances. The county ordinances would take precedence at this time. The county currently is working in other parts of the county with the same concerns. There is a possibility with the new state laws that the state could trump decisions made by the county and village. It was asked if the Village could be proactive in getting things set up. Mr. Kentner is concerned about property values, water runoff, the "eyesore" of the project, future impact of the property, and possible lighting issues. President Brown stated that Mr. Sam Cole is looking into the County and State bylaws for the Village. Mr. Kentner stated that Washington is in favor of "green" projects, and he is worried about the village wanting to "cash-in". The Hamilton's wanted to know if there was any way the Village could get an ordinance going. A petition was discussed as well as once a farm shuts down the land is not usable for some time. IPMC codes were discussed and whether these codes included the buffer zone. The ordinances and codes in the Village do cover the buffer zone. The IPMC codes do not differentiate between residential and agricultural. The Village will take all the comments into consideration and will continue to look into solar and wind farm laws and ordinances.
6. President's Comments: President Brown welcomed everyone. No questions noted.
7. Correspondence: None
8. **Treasurer's Report**  
Treasurer Adam Muehl presented the Treasurer's report. Most of the bills paid out this month are for regular and recurring bills, including monthly payroll. Total bills this month were \$2,229.94. Annual PO Box invoice was due this month. Trustee Terry Light made a motion to approve treasurer's report and bills as presented, with a second by Trustee Jeff Beukelman. As Trustee Terry Light's business, Berry's Garden Center, had an invoice due this month, he abstained from voting. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jeff Beukelman- Yea	Terry Light- Abstain	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Tyler Lappin- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

Treasurer Adam Muehl's report presented, reported that the account balances as of 10/31/2023 are as follows:

New General Fund		\$442,592.40
Old General Fund		\$16,622.95
TIF		\$117,490.42
MFT		\$149,240.37

Treasurer Adam Muehl requested approval to transfer \$16,522.95 from the Old General Fund to the New General Fund. Trustee Kris Kizer made a motion to approve, with a second by Trustee Jeff Beukelman, to approve the transfer of funds as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jeff Beukelman- Yea	Terry Light- Yea	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Tyler Lappin- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

**9. Reports of committees and assignments**

**a. Liquor Commission Committee -None**

**b. Planning Commission Committee/Zoning Board of Appeals-**

- i. Code enforcement officer Charles Stahl discussed the appeal request by Mr. and Mrs. Welker. The concerns that were cited were completed and the Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Appeals for Property Maintenance voted that issues were resolved. Clerk Brandye Kizer will send out letters to property owner regarding decision made by the Appeal Boards.

**c. Ordinance**

- i. President Brown was hoping to have Sam Cole at the meeting to discuss solar farms, but he was not able to be here. President Brown will continue to work on gathering information related to solar farms and wind farms.
- ii. Clerk Brandye Kizer reported that Ty Eshleman has completed the mapping for the zoning map for the Village but was unable to attend tonight’s meeting to give update and explanation. He has it on his calendar for next month. Tabled until next month’s meeting.

**d. Health and Safety**

**i. New Health and Safety Ordinance Complaints**

- a. Code Enforcement Officer Stahl discussed he does not have any new violation letters sent to residents.
- b. Code Enforcement Officer Stahl discussed the previous violation letters sent to residents. He reviewed the current status of the existing letters mailed. He reported that of the previous violations sent out the status is as follows:
  - (17) Violations have been completed and are no longer in violation
  - (4) Violations have called and stated they have corrected the concerns and Code Officer will check the status and close if they have been corrected. (5) additional cases are in the process of being reviewed to close.
  - (5) Violations have been referred to the Municipal Court and have a court date of 12/19/2023 as there has not been any contact or communication or progress on their violations.
  - (1) a new case is being referred to the Municipal Court due to no corrections or contact being made with the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Stahl stated the goal is not to send them to court and he is willing to work with folks if they reach out to him. The Village Board was able to ask questions regarding the new violation letters. The Village Board wants to see the Village cleaned up to ensure that residents homes continue to build in property value as well as keep the residents in the village healthy and safe.

**e. Budget and Finance-None**

**f. Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**

- i. TIF Holloway sidewalk project invoice was approved and paid from TIF funds during treasurer's report.

**g. Public Works/Municipal Projects (Roads, Drainage, other improvements)-MFT Funded Projects-**

- i. Wilson Lane project invoice was approved and paid from MFT funds during Treasurer's report .

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

i. President Brown reported that he has received the No Access signs for the Dollar General for the side road entrance. He will get those up and hopefully vehicles will stop driving on the grass as that is not an entrance for vehicles.

ii. President Brown reported that Donohue has completed the Archeologist Survey that is a requirement of the Unsewered Community Grant for the Village to apply for funds.

iii. President Brown discussed that the Village has several sidewalks that are in poor shape. He has received a quote from Mr. Ryan Mullins for a cost of \$1900.00 to remove the first section of the sidewalk in front of the Sims home on Chicago Ave. The second bid did not come in. This quote includes removing concrete, adding dirt, straw and reseeding the grass. Trustee Kris Kizer made a motion, with a second by Trustee Jeff Beukelman, to remove concrete sidewalk from Holloway to right past the Sims home on Chicago. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jeff Beukelman- Yea	Terry Light- Yea	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Tyler Lappin- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

iv. President Brown discussed a quote received by Mr. Ryan Mullins for \$700.00 to have a tree stump removed in front of the Sims home on Chicago now that the tree has been removed. Trustee Terry Light inquired about the tree stumps for the other trees that are being removed, and that these will also need to be removed. He requested that we obtain quotes for all 3 stumps and we discuss at the next meeting. President Brown will get a quote for this removal. Trustee Terry Light made a motion, with a second by Trustee Jeff Beukelman, to table the action, as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jeff Beukelman- Yea	Terry Light- Yea	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Tyler Lappin- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

v. President Brown discussed tree removals in the village.

a) President Brown presented the invoice received by Simmons Tree Service for removal of large tree on Chicago St in front of the Stimac property for \$2,000. The tree needed immediate removal due to safety concerns and the high winds we have been getting. Trustee Sheila Switzer made a motion, with a second by Trustee Jeff Beukelman, to pay invoice, as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jeff Beukelman- Yea	Terry Light- Yea	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Tyler Lappin- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

b) President Brown presented the quote by Simmons Tree Service for a tree on South St in front of the Pundt home. This tree is also in the Village right of way and needs to be removed. Simmons Tree Service quoted \$1500.00 for removal. President Brown was not able to obtain a second quote from another servicer before the meeting so he would like to present the quote

by Simmons Tree Service for approval. Trustee Sheila Switzer made a motion, with a second by Trustee Kris Kizer, to approve quote for removal of tree at 107 South St, as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jeff Beukelman- Yea	Terry Light- Yea	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Tyler Lappin- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

vi. President Brown discussed that Donohue continues to work on the plan for the sidewalk construction from Shake Rag to the High School. They will continue to keep the Village up to date with progress.

vii. President Brown requested to purchase a weed eater for the Village Maintenance to use in the Village. He is requesting \$350.00 for the purchase of the weed eater. He has the ability to purchase up to \$500.00 but doesn't think he will need that much but wanted to get board approval before purchasing. Trustee Terry Light made a motion, with a second by Trustee Mary Potter, to approve purchase of Village weed eater, as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Jeff Beukelman- Yea	Terry Light- Yea	Kris Kizer-Yea
Mary Potter- Yea	Tyler Lappin- Yea	Sheila Switzer-Yea

**i. Permits/Zoning/Liquor Applications- None**

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

Trustee Sheila Switzer discussed the pots in the Village, and she has the greenery to be placed. She will need assistance in cutting and placing greenery in the pots. Trustee Jeff Beukelman stated he could get some volunteers from the Key Club at the school if she could wait until December 5<sup>th</sup> to do so. They will get volunteers and place in pots on December 5<sup>th</sup> around 3pm. Holiday Trim and Lighting Contest will be held this month and voting will be done December 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and the winners will be announced at the December 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Clerk will assist in getting fliers posted and certificates for winners completed.

**10. Old Business**

**11. New Business**

**12.** Consideration of such matters as may lawfully come before the Board, or which are a result of public comments or questions. And/or are the result of an executive/closed session.

**13. Date and Time of Next Meeting** –The next regular meeting will be held at the Village Office in Bismarck, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m. on December 19, 2023. Bills to be considered for payment and items for the agenda are to be submitted by December 12, 2023, to the Village Clerk and Village Treasurer.

**14. Adjournment** – With no further business to come before the current Board at this time, upon motion by Trustee Tyler Lappin with a second by Trustee Jeff Beukelman, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm. The motion passed by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandye Kizer, Clerk

**APPROVED** 12/19/2023