

# VILLAGE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2020

The regular meeting of the Sleepy Hollow Corporate Authorities was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Sleepy Hollow Village Hall. President Stephan Pickett, Trustee Tom Merkel and Village Clerk Anthony Mills attended in person. Trustees Steven DeAtley, Anthony Piraino, Edward Harney and Joseph Nemec attended by remote video-conference via Zoom. Also attending via video-conferencing was Chief of Police Michael Rivas. Barbara J. Dettmer, ICCI, attended at the request of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

After asking all participants to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance President Pickett directed the clerk to call the roll of trustees in attendance at which time each trustee responding to the roll call confirmed the ability to hear all statements. President Pickett confirmed that the comments of all trustees remotely attending the meeting could be heard.

### MINUTES

Trustee DeAtley moved with a second from Trustee Harney to approve the Village Board Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2020. On a roll call vote with Trustees DeAtley, Piraino, Nemec and Harney voting aye, Trustee Merkel voting to abstain and no nay votes, the motion passed and the minutes of November 2, 2020 were approved.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Pickett informed the board of the status of the Village's application for relief under the CARES ACT and that since the last regular board meeting Kane County has executed the IGA and has issued payment.

President Pickett requested Board approval to authorize the expenditure up to \$26,820 for the upgrading of the Village's audio/video system in order to comply with the increased demands for remote operations due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Trustee Merkel moved with a second from Trustee Piraino to approve the expenditure of \$26,820 for the upgrading of the Village's audio/video system. On a roll call vote with Trustees Merkel, Piraino, Nemec, DeAtley and Harney voting aye and with no nay votes, the motion passed.

[Trustee Ziemba arrived at 7:39 pm and joined the meeting in progress.]

### CLERK

No report

### PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Barbara J. Dettmer reiterated the Planning & Zoning Commission's recommendation that the Board approve the Petition for Variance on rear yard setback at 1298 Acorn Ct. The Board had addressed this issue in the prior meeting so the action taken tonight was the motion to approve **ORDINANCE 2020-17 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE TO ALLOW FOR ERECTION OF A PORTICO AT 1298 ACORN COURT IN THE R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT OF THE VILAGE.** Trustee Merkel moved with a second from Trustee DeAtley to approve Ordinance 2020-17. On a roll call vote with Trustee Merkel, DeAtley, Nemec, Harney and Piraino voting aye and with no nay votes the motion passed. Trustee Ziemba abstained from voting.

Mrs. Dettmer also reported the P&Z Commissions decision on the request by the Twin Baptist Church's request for authority to install a digital message sign on its property on Randall Road. The sign will be erected at the same place the earlier sign was located. The prior sign had been damaged and was no longer in use. The board discussed the potential effect of Kane County's proposed plan

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to widen Randall Road and the potential impact that would have on the positioning of the new digital sign. Trustee Merkel asked that the Village seek written acknowledgement by Twin Baptist Church that it was aware of the possible future expansion of Randall Road and the potential impact on the location of the new sign. Mrs. Dettmer read to the Board a letter signed by the representatives of Twin Baptist Church expressly acknowledging the potential future expansion of Randall Road.

### **ATTORNEY**

No report

### **ENGINEER**

The Village Engineer reported that the 2020 Street paving project has been completed and that the final payment was included in the warrants package submitted to the board for approval. In addition the Village Engineer indicated that he is still working on the estimated costs water main repair and expansion project.

### **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

Trustee Ziemba moved with a second from Trustee Merkel to approve the accounts payable of November 16, 2020 for \$252,220.86. By a roll call vote with Trustee DeAtley, Nemec, Harney, Ziemba, Merkel and Piraino voting aye and with no nay votes the motion passed. Trustee Ziemba inquired as to the status of the Village finance audit and was advised that President Pickett met with the auditors recently to start the audit process.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- None

### **PARKS, ROADS AND STREETS**

Trustee Harney reported on his meeting with Kyle Killinger, Director of Public Works to inspect the new dump/plow truck the Village received this month. Trustees were invited to contact the public works department for a test ride in the vehicle.

### **FINANCE**

President Pickett noted for the record the proposed 2020 tax levy of \$845,000. President Pickett reported that due to the numerous issues and problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Village has been granted an extension for complete the Village finance audit.

### **WATER AND SEWER**

Trustee Nemec reported on the Village's move to the new TMA water billing system and that on the next billing statement the staff will be including a brief survey asking for the residents' comments on the new system.

### **POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

Trustee DeAtley requested Board approval for a longevity bonus for the Police Department's Record Clerk Rebecca Freemon. Ms. Freemon has served the Village for over 32 years and under the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Illinois Council of Police (ICOPS) she is entitled to the yearly bonus of \$1,500.00 which will be added to her base rate of pay. Trustee DeAtley moved with a second from Trustee Harney to approve the longevity bonus for Rebecca Freemon. On a roll call



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vote with Trustees Merkel, Nemec, Piraino, Harney and DeAtley voting aye and with Trustee Ziemba voting nay, the motion passed.

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**

Trustee Merkel stated he had nothing to report.

### **BUILDING AND ZONING ENFORCEMENT**

Trustee Piraino proposed that Village add a list of the approved burn dates to the Village website. President Pickett reminded the board of the difference between the burning of leaves (allowed only in October/November) and the burning of yard waste which is allowed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> full weekends of the month. Further, Trustee Piraino is proposing the Police Department respond to complaints of illegal burning to which Chief Rivas reported his staff has already responded to several calls. The Chief noted that all residents have quickly and without complaint complied with the officers' orders and that the problem was caused by the confusion arising from the miscalculation of the proper "2<sup>nd</sup> weekend" of November.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Board again discussed the issue of a cost share agreement involving the costs to repair the swale at 874 Winmoor. The resident was proposing the Village, due to a long period of notice and failure to repair the swale, agree to assume the cost to repair the uphill portion of the swale while he assume the costs of replacing the culvert and driveway. The resident believes the Village was aware of the problems with the swale for over 20 years and that the failure to correct/repair the problem caused the damage to the culvert on his driveway. In response the Village Engineer and Director of Public works noted the culvert had rusted away and that was the cause of the damage. The resident disagreed with this conclusion and stated that he though his cost share proposal was fair. Trustee Piraino moved with a second from Trustee Ziemba to improve the condition of the uphill section of the swale to the extent determined appropriate by the Public Works Department. On a roll call vote with Trustees Merkel, Piraino, DeAtley, Nemec, Harney and Ziemba voted aye and with no nay votes the motion passed. The resident disagreed with the Village's proposed method of repair.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Piraino proposed the Board agree to submit for voter approval a referendum on the 2021 Consolidated Election to permit the construction and installation of sheds within village limits. He proposed a non-binding referendum on this issue. If allowed the sheds will have to meet dimensional, material and location limitations which would be set by the board if the referendum was approved. While every trustee agreed that the issue of sheds should be determined by the residents, the cost of preparing and placing the referendum on the ballot would be an economic burden on the Village. Trustee Piraino moved with a second from Trustee Merkel to approve the placement of sheds on the 2021 Consolidated Election ballot. On a roll call vote with Trustees Piraino and Merkel voting aye and with Trustees Nemec, DeAtley, Ziemba and Harney voting nay, the motion failed.

Trustee Merkel made a statement in response to recent public comment about certain political signs in his yard, and that he should resign his position. He stated that signs earlier posted in his yard had been vandalized. He noted that there were other political signs in the Village that were in violation of the Village Code, including a sign on Winmoor and a sign in the yard of the person who made the

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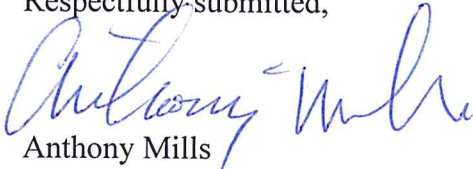
comment about his signs. He suggested that the Village review its sign regulations. When he made other personal comments about the person who made the earlier comment about him, Merkel was interrupted by the Village President and asked to confine his statements to public business, and he discontinued his statement.

President Pickett provided a response to an inquiry from Trustee Ziemba regarding the filing status of the MFT Reports. Trustee Ziemba reported the proposed promissory note is still under investigation and further due to the 2021 FY budget, the Village may be forced to conduct a referendum to increase property taxes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The board having no further business to discuss Trustee Nemec moved with a second from Trustee DeAtley to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. On a roll call vote with Trustee Harney, Piraino, Nemec Ziemba, Merkel and DeAtley voting aye and with not nay votes the motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Mills  
Village Clerk