

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Minutes

**Date: April 19, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065  
South Building Meeting Room

**1. Call to order – pledge of allegiance.**

President Malzahn called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

**2. Roll call.**

**Present:** Bartholomew, Edwards, Fowler, Hart, Parker, Poznanski, Malzahn  
All members are present

**MOTION by Hart second by Poznanski to allow Lisa Hall to take meeting minutes.**

**Ayes: All**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION carried.**

**3. Consent Agenda -no financial reports and remove consent agenda, no motion or vote.**

Parker noted a correction to the minutes item 8 d, posting of minutes should include village website. Requested the word draft be removed from across page can on future draft minutes.

**MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to approve minutes as amended.**

**Ayes: All**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION carried.**

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION by Hart second by Edwards to approve the agenda as presented.**

**AYES: All**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION carried.**

**4. Special Presentations – none**

**5. Correspondences:**

**MSU Extension – Terry Gibbs regarding Gypsy Moth spray.**

Malzahn reported correspondence was received from Terry Gibb advising the cost of spraying is \$5.00 less per acre, corrected price per acre is \$140.00.

**DDA Tif Plan Survey and Master Plan Survey**

Malzahn stated all board members have copies of the surveys in their packets. Surveys are still available on line and would like to encourage all board members, residents and others to take the surveys.

Parker noted some flaws in the Master Plan survey, some questions indicate participant can check multiple boxes, but will only allow to check one. Can the number of times someone takes the survey be limited?

Malzahn stated she believes only one response per computer or IP address is counted. Asked Parker to email his concerns about the surveys and she will pass those on to the ones in charge of the surveys.

#### **6. Public Comment – 13 audience members were present**

Parker asked if audience members will have the opportunity to speak at anytime during the meeting?

Bill Parker, Resident, stated he would like to comment on the rental ordinance.

Greg Tarr, Business Owner, stated he also has concerns about rental office – will defer questions to Bill Parker.

#### **7. Officer Reports**

a. President Malzahn she would like to remind everyone that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Township, Village of Romeo recycle event will be held on Saturday May 1, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon here at the Community Center, 361 Morton Street. This event is free to residents of the Village and Bruce Township. There is a limit of 6 banker boxes of shred material. Electronic recycling is new, harddrives are not destroyed they are recycled, tube TV's will not be accepted.

Malzahn noted the Village will be hosting an Arbor Day Event on April 30, 2021. The Tree Board and the Village are working hard to become recognized as a Tree City USA. There will be 3 memorial trees planted in the village honoring village residents. One will be at 195 South Main at the home of Anna Reiz and the late Paul Reiz, Past Village President.

Malzahn reported a member of the Village office staff tested positive for Covid and the office was closed for last week, but reopened this morning.

Believes online bill payments may have come back online today or will be tomorrow. At this time there is no indication that any employee or resident information has been compromised.

Malzahn stated she would encourage all our residents to be vigilant about security, we all seem to be bombarded with attacks.

b. Clerk – No report.

c. Treasurer Maddox stated she would like to reassure the residents that there are strict bank controls in place and all accounts are monitored daily. The format for paying water bills online may be a little different going forward.

Treasurer Maddox stated next week she will be out of the office for a Zoom training, am the recipient of a scholarship for the training.

Treasurer Maddox stated she is excited to report she has hired a part time assistant for the Treasurers office, May 1, 2021 will be her first day.

d. Trustee Poznanski reported she has completed Zoning Administrator Training and is working on obtaining her Master Citizen Planner certificate. She will be making a presentation to the Planning Commission soon.

Trustee Poznanski announced the DDA will be hosting Chalk the Walk on weekends in May. Sidewalk Chalk will be placed in front of businesses on Main Street. Children and Adults can participate by creating a chalk art piece on the sidewalk and submitting a picture and there name to the Romeo DDA Facebook page (Downtown Romeo). Stephanie Felchez -Assistant Romeo Mural Artist will be assisting with judging for prizes and possibly create some sidewalk art for us. This will be fun to have along side the DIA Inside|Out program.

Poznanski also noted the Lions Club is having an event on May 22 at the Lions field, there will be food trucks, 3 bands and a car raffle.

f. Ex-Officio Planning Commission – Nothing to report

## **8. Committee reports**

### **a. Sidewalk Subcommittee**

Bartholomew advised he had a meeting with Jeff Rapp, noted someone mentioned the new sidewalks appear wider. Piece work is not always perfect.

Malzahn noted that some areas on Washington street were marked in the first year but have not been completed, currently looking at what may have been missed. West St. Clair is being addressed this year also, Hubbell, Roth and Clark will be doing a site visit to determine the cost to connect the sidewalk on West St. Clair.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **a. Rental Ordinance**

**MOTION by Malzahn second by Parker to form subcommittee to review rental ordinance and table ordinance for further review.**

**AYES: All**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION carried.**

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Local State of Emergency Declaration allowing for remote meetings due to Covid\***

Malzahn stated the purpose of adopting an Emergency Declaration would be so all boards could meet electronically as needed.

**DECLARATION OF THE ROMEO VILLAGE PRESIDENT DECLARING A STATE  
OF EMERGENCY IN THE VILLAGE OF ROMEO TO COMBAT THE NOVEL CORONA VIRUS  
AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMITTING THE ROMEO VILLAGE COUNCIL AND OTHER  
PUBLIC BODIES OF THE VILLAGE OF ROMEO TO MEET BY ELECTRONIC AND  
TELEPHONIC MEANS**

WHEREAS, the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to constitute an epidemic in Michigan and that control of the epidemic requires restrictions on public gatherings, and;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to constitute an emergency in the Village of Romeo, and;

WHEREAS, The Michigan General Law Village Act, Public Act 3 of 1895, as amended, MCL 61.1, et. seq., specifically MCL 64.1 and MCL 64.2, provide the Village President is the chief executive officer of the Village and a conservator of the peace, and;

WHEREAS, under the Michigan General Law Village Act, Public Act 3 of 1895, as amended, MCL 61.1, et. seq., specifically MCL 64.1 and MCL 64.2, the President of the Village is authorized to declare a Local State of Emergency in cases of emergency or disaster, which the COVID-19 Pandemic is;

NOW, THEREFORE, under the powers provided by the Michigan General Law Village Act, Public Act 3 of 1895, as amended, MCL 61.1, et. seq.,

I, Christine Malzahn, President of the Village of Romeo, based on the findings made by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services regarding the public health threat posed by the COVID-19 novel corona virus and its variant strains and the conditions now existing in the Village of Romeo,

HEREBY DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE VILLAGE OF ROMEO to combat the COVID-19 novel corona virus and to permit the Romeo Village Council and all other public bodies of the Village of Romeo to continue to meet by electronic and telephonic means as provided in Public Act 254 of the Michigan Public Acts of 2020, after March 30, 2021, and respectfully request the Romeo Village Council affirm this action through July 31, 2021, by the adoption of an appropriate resolution.

Malzahn stated this will be effective immediately upon adoption and will run until July 31, 2021

**MOTION by Edwards second by Hart to adopt local State of Emergency Declaration as presented.**

**Ayes: All**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION carried.**

b. Arbor Day Proclamation

A Proclamation by the President of the Village of Romeo, Michigan for Arbor Day.

*Whereas,* In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

*Whereas,* this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

*Whereas,* Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

*Whereas,* trees can reduce the erosion of our topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

*Whereas,* trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and beauty to our community; and

*Whereas,* trees in our village increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and provide character to our community; and

*I,* Christine Malzahn, President of the Village of Romeo, in the County of Macomb, and on behalf of the Village Council, do hereby proclaim April 30, 2021 as in the Village of Romeo, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.

*Further,* I further urge all citizens to plant trees in order to promote the well-being of this generation and future generations to come.

*Dated this* 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

**MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to adopt Arbor Day April 30, 2021 Proclamation.**

**Ayes: All**

**Nays: None**  
**Motion carried.**

**c. Tree Maintenance Approval**

**MOTION by Parker second by Fowler to table tree maintenance to obtain two additional quotes.**

**Ayes: All**  
**Nays: None**  
**MOTION carried.**

**d. Police Vehicle Equipment Purchase Approval**

**MOTION by Edwards second by Bartholomew to approve Police vehicle equipment purchase approval.**

**Ayes: All**  
**Nays: None**  
**MOTION carried.**

**e. DPW Backhoe Repairs approval**

**MOTION by Parker second by Edwards to approve emergency expenditure of \$2,699.99 for DPW backhoe repairs.**

**FOR THIS MOTION: Yes: Parker, Edwards, Poznanski, Bartholomew, Fowler, Hart, Malzahn**  
**No: None**

**MOTION carried.**

**f. Restated & Amended Ordinance #556 – Marihuana Business**

**MOTION by Parker second by Fowler to table adoption of Restated and Amended Ordinance #556 Marihuana Business.**

**Ayes: All**  
**Nays: None**  
**MOTION carried.**

**MOTION to close regular meeting at 9:10 p.m.**

**Ayes: All**  
**Nays: None**  
**MOTION carried.**

**MOTION by Parker second by Fowler to allow Lisa Hall to take closed session meeting minutes.**

**Ayes: All**  
**Nays: None**  
**MOTION carried.**

**11. Closed session**

**12. Adjournment.**

**MOTION by Parker second by Fowler to adjourn meeting at 9:58 p.m.**

**Ayes: All**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION carried.**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Lisa Hall, Recording secretary.**