

Board of Trustees Meeting
Special Meeting, April 14, 2021 7pm
361 Morton St, Romeo Mi 48065
South Building Meeting Room

Malzahn: called meeting to order at 7:00pm

Malzahn: Clerk Trapp absent must appoint someone to take the minutes at tonight's meeting.

Poznanski: Volunteered to take the minutes.

Motion by Parker supported by Fowler to appoint Poznanski to take tonight's meeting minutes.

Yeas: Bartholomew, Poznanski, Malzahn, Hart, Parker, Fowler

Nays:

Absent: Edwards

Motion Passed

Pledge: recited

Roll Call

Present: Bartholomew, Poznanski, Malzahn, Hart, Parker, Fowler

Absent: Edwards

Have a quorum

Public Comment: none

New Business: Internet Services/Finances

President Malzahn read the following statement:

I have recently learned that cyber criminals have deployed ransomware to our network. This ransomware infection required us to shut down parts of our network as we work to remediate the issue. As a result, some of our IT assets may not be fully available. This investigation and remediation process is fluid and ongoing as our team of cyber security experts work to recover access to our equipment.

Under advice of both special and general counsel, along with the Chief of Police, in an effort to protect the village of Romeo from further attacks, that is all the information that I can provide you at this time. I encourage each of you to understand the risks and exercise every precaution to also protect Romeo.

Motion by Bartholomew supported by Hart to adjourn.

Yeas: Bartholomew, Malzahn, Hart

Nays: Poznanski, Parker, Fowler

Absent: Edwards

Motion failed

Hart: Mr. Clark is there anything that can be discussed?

Clark: You can discuss whatever is appropriate to discuss. The advice is to not discuss. You can discuss the subject matter if that's what you choose to do. I don't recommend it but it's your choice.

Hart: requested Mr. Clarks comment be added to the minutes.

Poznanski: Requested to hear what the Police have had to say on the matter.

Police Chief Sokolnicki: At this time, there has been some internet malware that has been placed on the office equipment and right now that is all I can tell you. It is an ongoing investigation, we're working with different agencies to try to figure out how why and what to do.

Poznanski: Romeo Police have the investigation open?

Sokolnicki: Yes

Poznanski: is that the only Police involved?

Sokolnicki: Police, yes

Parker: any other agencies involved?

Sokolnicki: The FBI is yes

Fowler: who is our IT for the Village?

Malzahn: SYO

Fowler: are they aware of what's going on?

Malzahn: I'm not at liberty to give any details at this time

Bartholomew: Question for the Chief. Are we early on in this investigation?

Sokolnicki: yes

Poznanski: when were we notified of whatever is happening?

Malzahn: this incident is just over 24 hrs old

Poznanski: when did the Village first know about it?

Malzahn: yesterday morning

Poznanski: who was the person that found it?

Malzahn: office staff all about the same time

Fowler: has the public been notified?

Malzahn: we don't know what has occurred. We don't understand the entirety of the situation. We don't know the actors or who is involved at this point.

Fowler: shouldn't we put something out to the public?

Malzahn: All we know is we are not able to access our computers.

Fowler: How did it happen?

Malzahn: that's being investigated

Sokolnicki: We don't even know yet that there has even been a breach into the system to get anybody's information.

Fowler: that's all the information? A blank screen saying I have your stuff.

Sokolnicki: yes, they're holding it for ransom. It's encrypted

Parker: So we know something has happened, but we have been advised not to notify people to take precautions.

Sokolnicki: What are you going to notify them of? We don't know that anybody's information has been taken.

Poznanski: what steps are we taking in the office?

Malzahn: Not at liberty to say that at this time

Poznanski: you cannot say anything to put people's fears at ease?

Malzahn: I offered you an opportunity to meet with me in person today to discuss the detail in a private conversation.

Poznanski: I didn't want any information that the public can't have.

Malzahn: at this meeting all I can say is what's on this statement.

Poznanski: I feel that's a disservice and not transparent to the people.

Parker: so the information you shared with me this morning shouldn't be shared with the public?

Malzahn: correct

Parker: shouldn't I have been notified of that before our meeting?

Malzahn: If you feel like the information needs to be shared then the liability is on you.

Parker: you did not make that clear this morning.

Hart: so was the purpose of the meeting to not have a public meeting tonight?

Malzahn: yes, to offer the information you are wanting tonight.

Parker: this morning you said to me we were waiting on an answer from Mark if we could have this meeting tonight.

Malzahn: I was waiting to hear if we could have this meeting in closed session. You are putting the Village at risk.

Poznanski: I believe it is the neglect of duty of the official's in the office that has gotten us to this point, not that we are putting the Village at risk right now.

Malzahn: That may be your opinion. You don't have the facts.

Bartholomew: The three trustees that called this meeting know better than our legal counsel who said we shouldn't have this meeting?

Parker: We were just informed right now. Not before we called the meeting. We have no access to legal. If you do then I would like that access too.

Bartholomew: he (Clark) just told us right now.

Parker: the meeting was called before we were even advised.

Bartholomew: it was suggested that we don't have this meeting tonight.

Fowler: the public needs to be informed of what's going on.

Bartholomew: there's nothing you can tell them at this time.

Fowler: if our system has been hacked and a ransom note left there is something the public should know.

Poznanski: Sheri do you have anything to say?

Malzahn: this is not public forum time. This is the agenda item time. Public forum time is over.

Poznanski: if we would like to be fully informed our Treasurer has information for us.

Malzahn: the Treasurer has not been at any of the information updates.

Treasurer Sheri Maddox: and why is that? That I have not been notified..

Malzahn: excuse me you are out of order.

Parker: since the agenda has not been approved I make a motion...

Motion by Parker support by Fowler to add Treasurer Report to the agenda

Yeah: Parker, Fowler

Nays: Bartholomew, Poznanski, Malzahn, Hart

Motion Fails

Malzahn: according to our rules of procedure

Parker: can we take a roll please

Malzahn: excuse me, I am the chairman of this meeting and you are out of order. Mr Clark could you please inform him of our rules of procedure for agendas for special meetings?

Clark: Was going to try and look at rules before the meeting, but didn't get a chance to and did so now. Under rule conduct of meetings refers to regular council meeting, but this is not a regular meeting. Thought there was a rule that addresses special meeting but does not see it.

Malzahn: believes the rule is no agenda item can be added and no voting takes place.

Clark: Agrees, but doesn't see that in the Rules of Procedure. Looking at the copy from December 2018. Does not have most recent copy of updated rules.

Sokolnicki: Asks to speak

Poznanski: States that if Treasurer Maddox can't speak then unsure Police Chief should speak.

Malzahn: He's the Chief of Police and also a counselor to me. So yes

Sokolnicki: Clarifies ransomware has been put on the server. It does not steal information but is an encryption that locks up the computer and they ask for money to get the computer unlocked.

At this point we don't know if there has been a breach of anybody's information. Yes, if you're worried about it check your bank accounts check your credit cards and credit report, as you should do regularly anyways.

Malzahn: states motion to adjourn

Poznanski: we are waiting on Mr. Clark's opinion

Clark: the rules he had did not refer to special meetings only regular agendas. His stated that if you want to make a motion to change the agenda to allow someone to speak, you can do that, but do so at your own peril. You're talking about making the problem known, that's fine. You need to be careful about how much and how the problem is being addressed is being made known. Conduct yourselves however you see fit.

Bartholomew: states motion to adjourn

Poznanski: Parker what would you like to do with your motion?

Parker: he (Clark) said we could add to allow her (Treasurer) to speak and I made a motion, would like to take a vote. (Parkers Motion recorded where first called in the meeting)

Motion by Hart support by Bartholomew to adjourn.

Malzahn: All in favor? Bartholomew, Malzahn, Hart

Opposed: Poznanski, Parker, Fowler

Motion Fails

Trustee Hart got up and left the meeting. 7:25

Parker: are we being advised to not discuss further because it will mess with the investigation? Or is there a reason people shouldn't know?

Sokolnicki: No, it's an ongoing investigation. If you wanted to FOIA this investigation right now you would not get a copy of it.

Fowler: we just want the people to be aware.

Poznanski: by saying we could not receive anything through FOIA, your computers are separate and your stuff has not been touched?

Sokolnicki: My stuff is completely separate and has not been touched.

Poznanski: is DPW and WWTP separate servers?

Malzahn: not at liberty to disclose that information.

Motion Bartholomew support by Malzahn to adjourn

Yeah: Bartholomew, Poznanski, Malzahn

Nays: Parker, Fowler

Absent: Hart, Edwards

Motion Passes

Meeting adjourned at 7:29

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Trustee Meagan Poznanski, 4/20/21