

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.
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Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065
South Building Meeting Room

Present: Bartholomew
Edwards
Fowler
Hart
Parker
Poznanski
President Malzahn

President Malzahn requested a motion to allow Lisa Hall to take meeting minutes for tonight's meeting.

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

AYES: All

NAYS: None

MOTION carried.

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Malzahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call.

3. **Consent Agenda** (*minutes August 16, 2021, CLOSED SESSION August 16, 2021*) (*council bills/vendor report \$125,089.72 AND \$1,303,788.40, Meeting Agenda*)

MOTION by Hart second by Edwards to approve August 16, 2021 closed session meeting minutes and agenda as presented.

AYES: All

NAYS: None

MOTION carried.

Parker noted a correction for page 2 of the August 16, 2021 meeting minutes regarding payment of bills. Parker noted his vote was a no.

MOTION by Edwards second by Bartholomew to approve the August 16, 2021 minutes as amended.

AYES: All

NAYS: None

MOTION carried.

MOTION by Edwards second by Bartholomew to approve the bills in the amounts of \$125,089.72 and \$1,303,788.40.

AYES: Edwards, Bartholomew, Hart, Poznanski, Malzahn

NAYS: Parker, Fowler

MOTION carried.

4. Special Presentations – None

5. Correspondence(s) - None

6. Public Comment

Michelle Poulos, Armada Village Clerk and David Coenan, Armada Village President Pro Tem. Clerk Paulos read a letter she prepared thanking the Village of Romeo DPW, Romeo Schools and many volunteers who assisted with clean up after the tornado.

Nathan Bartholomew, 298 N. Main, commented on the parking situation in Romeo. The village of Romeo has seen many changes over the years. Remembers in the 1970's walking to town with his mother for the annual sidewalk sales, there was no place to park than and that is why we walked. The village still has a parking problem, the Northwest quadrant parking is regularly full, not leaving many open spots for patrons. I have had discussion with many business owners and residents in the Northwest quadrant and more parking is needed.

As a direct result of President Malzahn's dedication and hard work the village board recently approved the purchase of the parcel next to the post office on Church Street for the purpose of constructing a new parking lot. The new parking lot and the updating of the park will be a great addition to the village.

Bartholomew stated he has a card for President Malzahn from residents, property owners and others who are grateful for her efforts.

7. Officer reports

a. President Malzahn –

I want to express my sincere thanks to all of the organizers who planned, volunteered and contributed to our amazing 90th Peach Festival this past Labor Day Weekend. There was record attendance taking part in the festivities and Romeo proudly welcomed them all to our beautiful historic village. Our DPW and Village Police out did themselves in keeping us safe and clean and I can't thank them enough for the quality of their work. Well done everyone!

Thank you to the Parks and Rec Senior Center for organizing and inviting Clerk Trapp Treasurer Maddox and myself to speak at a Coffee and Conversation meeting at the senior center. Clerk Trapp and I attended along with Bruce Twp Supervisor Mike Fillbrook. In case you missed it the next scheduled opportunity is November 8th – everyone is invited to attend and ask questions to the elected officials. Please join us.

Congratulations to Kathryn Trapp. She was named the Village Clerk of the Year from the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks on September 8th, 2021, in recognition of her commitment and leadership to the citizens of Michigan as Romeo Village Clerk.

I was invited to the ribbon cutting and open house celebration of the Trilogy Independent Living Center located on 33 mile road. This newest Trilogy investment in Bruce Twp. offers its residents a world class facility in which to thrive in a family, community minded environment. What a tremendous asset to be added to this area.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Miller, who was selected as the new Romeo DDA Executive Director. I was a member of the hiring committee, alongside Jon Rose, Zach Hayes and Kelly Stephens. We unanimously recommend her to the Board at the DDA meeting on Sept 13th. I

look forward to working with her, collaboratively seeking solutions and expanding communications between the DDA Board and our business owners.

The Tree Board met on the 17th and they are coordinating a few more tree plantings in the next few weeks. The locations are still being determined.

I am continuing to work with them to develop a care and planting policy, which will include updating our current ordinance. It is a painstaking process, but I thank them for their efforts on this very important project. We are rapidly losing trees to disease and storm damage, so developing a replacement program is very necessary.

Another friendly reminder that our 2nd 2021 Paper Shred and E-Waste recycling event, co-sponsored by Bruce Twp and Romeo is scheduled for Saturday, October 16th from 9:00 AM – Noon. Please mark your calendars and bring your items for this FREE event, both paper and electronics (with some limitations) will be accepted.

As always I continue to hold regular office hours to meet with our property and business owners to address their concerns. If you have a concern, compliment or complaint that you need assistance with, please call my office at 586-752-3565, ext 3

b. Clerk – no report

c. Treasurer Maddox stated all tax payments have been processed. Some are still coming in, for those payments the office is advising the payment needs to be sent to the County Treasurer with an additional 1% added. To finish settling with the county I will be working with the Bruce and Washington Township treasurers and obtaining their signatures and submitting all to the County.

In regards to the Medical Marijuana applications Caroline will be overseeing the process with Clerk Trapp.

d. Fowler - Ex-Officio Planning Commission – received communication regrading the Zion Church that will going up for sale, property is currently zoned commercial, trying to bring in front of ZBA, consulted Village attorney Clark.

Village Attorney Clark stated he does not believe the church is zoned commercial, would be zoned what is applicable to the area. Can look at the Village records for zoning, understanding the area is zoned residential and the church could continue the use.

Fowler asked if it is something to get in front of?

Malzahn stated the information can be obtained from Bruce Township or from Treasurer Maddox.

e. Parker stated he would like to thank everyone involved with the Peach Festival and thank the DPW for a great job.

f. Hart agreed with Parker.

g. Edwards agreed with Parker.

h. Poznanski stated she attended the Ford UAW 400 Rally last week. Mark Hackel and many other officials were in attendance trying to show how important it is to keep the plant open. Many local families will be effected by the closure as well local business.

Pozananski stated she received a FOIA from Clerk Trapp in regards to a Facebook post created earlier today. As of this time there is no comment to the post and for future dates included in the FOIA request, I will turn over my response to Clerk Trapp.

i. Bartholomew stated he is looking to meet with Jeff to start on the sidewalks on Dickenson.

8. Committee Reports

a. Sidewalk Subcommittee

Malzahn stated sidewalks were marked just before Labor Day and notifications were sent out for West St Clair. Easements have been drafted for sidewalk across the street from the middle school. Three estimates will be needed for the work as it will be over \$10,000.00.

Bartholomew noted corner houses sometimes overlook that there are two sides.

Fowler asked Bartholomew if while they are on Dickenson, could they look at 315 Dickenson?

b. Rental Inspection Subcommittee

Malzahn stated no meetings have been held, was approached by a new renter in the village regarding the owner.

Parker stated Bill Parker is out of town, hopefully can meet the 2nd week of October.

c. Bruce Sewer Capacity Subcommittee

Malzahn stated a meeting was scheduled for last Thursday and attendees met at the wastewater treatment plant. Fowler asked if the village will be using their leverage?

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. TEXT MY GOV Updates

Malzahn stated residents should be encouraged to text "Romeo" to 91816 to opt in for emergency text alerts. Residents can also text 586-281-9281 with any questions or inquiries, the system will prompt back with responses.

b. Non-Union Employees Memo of Understanding

Malzahn stated the board needs to start the process now to get everyone enrolled in Priority Health. The DPW, Wastewater and Office have agreed to the MOU as presented.

MOTION by Poznanski second by Fowler to approve MOU as presented regarding compensation for full and part time employees, negating the elected officials and approving \$37.00 per hour for Tim Metz.

AYES: Poznanski, Fowler, Parker

NAYS: Bartholomew, Edwards, Hart, Malzahn

MOTION failed.

MOTION by Edwards second by Hart to accept MOU as presented regarding compensation for full and part time employees and elected officials, make amendment to increase Tim Metz to \$37.00 per hour and Chief Sokolnick to \$38.00 per hour.

AYES: Edwards, Hart, Bartholomew, Malzahn

NAYS: Poznanski, Fowler, Parker

MOTION carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Church Street Parking

MOTION by Hart second by Poznanski to approve Proposed Parking Lot at 129 Church Street, Design Services Proposal of \$14,327.60 as presented by Hubbell, Roth and Clark.

AYES: Hart, Poznanski, Edwards, Fowler, Parker, Bartholomew, Malzahn

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

11. Closed Session

MOTION by Hart second by Poznanski to enter into CLOSED SESSION for the purpose of Union Labor Negotiations Updates [at 8:17 p.m.]

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Fowler to enter into Regular Session at [8:33 p.m.].

AYES: All

NAYS: None

MOTION carried.

MOTION by Malzahn second by Fowler to approve MOU and tentative agreements with DPW and Wastewater as presented.

AYES: Malzahn, Fowler, Poznanski, Bartholomew, Parker, Edwards, Hart

NAYS: None

MOTION carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Fowler second by Malzahn to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYS: None

MOTION carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa Hall

Recording Secretary

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