

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Minutes

Date: December 20, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065

South Building Meeting Room

PRESENT: Bartholomew  
Edwards  
Fowler  
Hart  
Parker  
Poznanski  
Malzahn

1. **Call to order** – pledge of allegiance – President Malzahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

3. **CONSENT AGENDA** (*minutes November 15, 2021*), (*council bills/vendor report \$221,905.02 AND \$43,424.81 meeting agenda*)

**MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to approve the meeting minutes from November 15, 2021**

**AYES: Bartholomew, Edwards, Hart, Malzahn**

**NAYS: Fowler, Parker, Poznanski**

**Motion carried.**

**MOTION by Edwards second by Bartholomew to approve the bills in the amounts of \$221,905.00 and \$43,424.81**

**AYES: Edwards, Bartholomew, Hart, Malzahn**

**NAYS: Parker, Poznanski, Fowler**

**Motion carried.**

**MOTION by Hart second by Malzahn to add CLOSED SESSION to agenda**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

4. **Special Presentations** – None

5. **Correspondence(s)** – None

6. **Public Comment** – Ruth Heidebrieht, 354 Salem Drive – made comments

## 7. Officer reports

### a. President –

As we approach the end of 2021, I want to personally thank our Romeo residents for their abundant support. I can't thank enough, the Village employees, for their hard work and dedication. Although this year has certainly had its share of difficulties, we have all worked together to find solutions that have made us a financially stronger and a much safer community. I also thank the Trustees for their service to this Village and look forward to the good work we will do together in 2022.

I attend another SEMCOG Executive Committee Meeting on Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Detroit Adventure Center. The meeting featured an informational session from MDOT director Paul Ajegba, an overview of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act from Tiffany Gunter, Deputy Director of SEMCOG, and important legislative updates from SEMCOG Executive Director Amy O'Leary.

If you have not been to the DAC – I urge you to check it out – it's a great interactive learning space for families focused on the natural resources Michigan has to offer – it's located on Atwater Street in Detroit. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, I attend the 2 day Michigan Association of Mayors and Presidents Conference. Key take-aways were best practices in Manager/President roles and responsibilities, Parliamentary Procedures, as well as policy making and proclamations.

The RWB Chamber of Commerce EMMA's (extraordinary member merit award) were held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations to all the award winners! Especially to Greg Brynaert who received the Lifetime Achievement award, and to Ruth Heidebreicht who was honored with the Community Leadership award. It was my honor to nominate and present the Beautification/Brick Award to Joe Warden & Kim Davis from Tri-County Bank! What a turn out we had for the Christmas Parade and Village Tree Lighting! The park was absolutely packed as we all gathered to welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus who helped us welcome the holiday season! They graciously accepted a key to the Village from me, and joyfully greeted all the good boys and girls who came to visit with them.

Clara Russell and her staff at the RWB Parks and Rec, along with the Romeo Lions orchestrated this event and truly outdid themselves again this year! Before the parade I was joined by Clerk Trapp (and her daughters) Trustee Bartholomew, Bruce Twp Supervisor Mike Fillbrook, Bruce Twp Clerk Kraft (and her husband) and Bruce Twp Trustee Lisa Craffy to pass out over 400 glow sticks and fiber optic lights to the gathering crowd. We had so much fun!

I send a HUGE thank you to Chris and Diane Smiles who organized the Samaritan House Sharing Tree again this year. I was able to lend a hand, along with their other volunteers, wrapping, sorting and delivering Christmas gifts to over 163 local families and 24 group homes in need. Diane and Chris spend countless hours throughout the year on this program culminating in a week-long effort to prepare & distribute the donated gifts to those in need.

Washington Township hosted a 3<sup>rd</sup> Parks & Rec Meeting workshop meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Trustees for attending with me in a show of support for Romeo. I'm sad to report that the Washington Twp Board voted 5-2, at their December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, in favor of a re-forming the commission with a Seven Member Board. Five would be from Washington Twp, two from Bruce and it will exclude Romeo from having a representative. I am waiting for more information and next steps – if any – from Supervisors Prevet and Fillbrook, but I am anticipating the cancellation of the scheduled January 12<sup>th</sup> workshop meeting.

December 14<sup>th</sup> – RCS vs Oxford Varsity Game - Thank you Coach Marvin Cushingberry and RCS Athletic Director Cody Smith for inviting me to welcome the Oxford Wildcats to Romeo as they returned to the basketball court on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. It was my privilege to make and present them a poster print that the Coaches had signed by the players. The print was a photograph of Romeo Rock with Oxford Strong painted on it. Shout out to Brielle Cichocki and Katherine Rice for their amazing painting skills! Please continue to send warm hugs and pray for our neighbors as they continue to make a path forward in the aftermath of such tragedy.

"Love" is officially coming to Romeo on Friday January 14, 2022. Everyone is invited to attend the First Day of Issue Dedication Ceremony from the United States Postal Service at 11:00 am at the Romeo Masonic Lodge

here on Main Street. Come and meet your new Romeo Postmaster Ms. Stacey Isman, along with other dignitaries including the artist who designed and illustrated the stamp. Paul Grose from WDIV Channel 4 will be the master of ceremonies. Your RSVP is requested at [usps.com/lovestamps](https://usps.com/lovestamps).

I am pleased to inform you that Romeo has a new Police Officer. Our newest employee who will be replace retired officer Lynda Blevins is Officer Kata Ante. He comes to us from the City of Detroit, where was assigned to the SWAT team and also served as a resource officer. Kata Ante will be officially sworn in by the honorable Jennifer Andary at our January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and will be a great asset to our residents. 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 –

On Thursday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> I facilitated the Tillson Residents meeting at the Parks and Rec Senior Center. I would like to thank Police Chief Sokolnicki, Village Attorney Mark Clark, Chief Battalion Jim Vowell from Bruce Township fire department, President Malzahn and Bruce Township Supervisor Mike Fillbrook for taking the time to answer residents' questions.

The night before I did attend the Parks and Rec meeting that was held at Washington Township

We are in the process wrapping up our first audit with the firm Gabridge and Company.

This season Santa's Helpers answered over 400 letters to Santa!

With that I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2022!

c. Treasurer -

Audit documentation requested was provided to Clerk Trapp and auditors in October.

November 16, Forfeiture Properties were sent to Macomb County.

November 17, Reports sent to Bendzinski & Company for the Annual Information Statement in the completion for the Continuing Disclosure Undertaking. Audited Financial Statement is needed, Clerk to prepare.

November 30, mailed completed and signed Computerized Tax Roll Recertification requested by Michigan Department of Treasury.

Wish the residents, business owners, board members a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Pray for a better New Year

d. Trustees –

Trustee Fowler – Sidewalk bill was sent to his house in error.

Trustee Poznanski – Attended the Thanksgiving Community dinner at the Mason Hall, attended and helped out at the Santa Parade, attended the meeting Parks and Rec meeting at Washington Township

Trustee Bartholomew – Reported that a resident heard water in her basement and DPW responded promptly and was thankful, spoke with resident about Tillson Street, attended the EMMA Awards and acknowledged President Malzahn

e. Ex-Officio Planning Commission –

Trustee Fowler reported that the Planning Commission approved all the Special Land Uses that applied

## 8. Committee Reports

- a. Bruce Sewer Capacity Subcommittee – Have not met. Emails have been exchanged.

## 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. WWTP Crown Vic Sale

**MOTION by Bartholomew second by Poznanski to reduce the price of the Crown Victoria to \$950.00 or best offer**

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

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. 2022 Appointments

**MOTION by Hart second by Fowler to approve the Village President's nominations for 2022 Annual Appointments**

SUPERVISOR OF PUBLIC WORKS	TIM METZ
SUPERVISOR OF WASTEWATER PLANT	AL LAPEER
WASTE WATER PROGRAM MANAGER	AL LAPEER
POLICE CHIEF	DAN SOKOLNICKI
VILLAGE ATTORNEY	MARK CLARK
VILLAGE PROSECUTOR	MARK CLARK
PLBG. & HEATING INSPECTOR	KEN BORYCZ
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	TIM DILLON
BUILDING	
INSPECTOR	MICHAEL BOMMARITO
NOXIOUS WEED INSPECTOR	DAN SOKOLNICKI
STREET ADMINISTRATOR	PRESIDENT CHRISTINE MALZAHN

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

**MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to approve the Village Presidents' nomination of Elizabeth Kellog to fill the vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority, with term ending in December 2023**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

**MOTION by Poznanski second by Parker to approve the Village President's nomination and re-appointment of Kelley Stephens and Sandra Brooks to the Cemetery Board**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

b. WWTP Generator Engineering Proposal

**MOTION by Bartholomew second by Hart to approve the proposal from HRC for the generator and switchgear replacement located at the WWTP at a cost of \$42,100.00**

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

**NAYS: Parker**

**Motion carried.**

c. Romeo Middle School Resource/Liaison Officer Funding

**MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to authorize President Malzahn to begin negotiations between Romeo, the POAM, the Romeo School District and Bruce Township to establish a job description, union position and cost share options for the purposes of a hiring a**

**Romeo officer with jurisdiction/authority dedicated to the Romeo Middle School facility.**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

- d. Village Hall Bathroom

**MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to table the bathroom remodel discussion until January 2022**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

- e. Parliamentary Work Session – January 26, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Item was discussed. No board action taken.

- f. Marihuana License Approvals

Item was discussed. No board action taken.

- g. RFP For Water and Sewer Rate Study Project

**MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to approve the bid by Municipal Analytics for the purposes of conducting a 2022 Water and Sewer Rate Study in the amount not exceed of \$18,500.00**

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

**NAYS: Fowler**

**Motion carried.**

11. Closed Session

**MOTION by Malzahn second by Bartholomew to close regular session of the meeting**

**AYES: ALL**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

**MOTION by Malzahn second by Bartholomew to enter into CLOSED SESSION for the purpose of real estate acquisition**

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

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

**CLOSED SESSION began at 9:03 p.m.**

**MOTION by Malzahn second by Edwards to enter into regular session at 9:37 p.m.**

**AYES: Malzahn, Edwards, Fowler, Hart, Bartholomew**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Parker, Poznanski**

**Motion carried.**

12. Adjournment

**MOTION by Fowler second by Edwards to adjourn the meeting [at 9:37 p.m.]**

**AYES: All**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion carried.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
KATHRYN TRAPP  
VILLAGE CLERK**