

Board of Trustees Meeting
MINUTES

Date: March 21, 2022

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

2. Roll Call

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Items requested to be pulled out: February 22, 2022 Minutes

Check Register Report

**Move CLOSED SESSION minute approval to CLOSED
SESSION Item 11**

ADD “Cat Walk” to Unfinished Business

ADD “Appointed Positions” to Unfinished Business

MOTION by Edwards second by Poznanski to approve the changes in the agenda

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

NAYS: Poznanski

Motion carried.

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to approve the Check Register Report

AYES: Bartholomew, Edwards, Hart, Malzahn

NAYS: Fowler, Parker, Poznanski

Motion carried.

**MOTION by Hart second by Bartholomew to approve the regular meeting minutes with the
edit of page 3, change Poznanski’s vote on the Ford donation item**

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

NAYS: Poznanski

Motion carried.

4. **Special Presentations – *Parking Update, Elizabeth Miller.** Elizabeth Miller gave a presentation.
5. **Correspondence(s) – DDA Thank You Letter.** Letter was recognized,
6. **Public Comment – Comments were heard**

7. **Officer reports**
 - a. **President**

Coffee & Conversation was held at the Romeo Senior Center on March 14th. Thank you to all the seniors who reached out to me with their concerns for the current Parks & Rec situation. The question that I received the most was “why”. Why is Washington Twp creating all of this upheaval and can it result in disruptions to the services our Seniors so desperately need? I truly wished that I had the answer to that question of “why”. I wish that I was able offer them the reassurances they are seeking that they will still be able to come to the Romeo campus for meals and socialization, because we know that if funding is cut or deferred it will impact them.

Please know that I am doing everything that I can, personally and legally, under the advisement of Attorney Mark Clark, to ensure that our seniors and youth are protected while preserving the programming and services you rely on.

I attend the Michigan Municipal League’s Capital Conference in Lansing on March 15th & 16th. The theme for the 2-day event was “Partnerships and Policy” and it emphasized Fueling Community Revival. There were many break-out session to choose from and several general sessions that covered legislative updates focused on municipal interests.

I attend the MI Water Navigator Workshop on Tuesday morning. This session was specific to the new MML Help desk for communities who are now required to become Lead & Copper service line compliant. Romeo has identified certain households that has existing lead service lines that will need to be replaced under EGLE’s new requirements. I will be working with the MI Water helpdesk team and our engineering firm to create an asset management implementation/funding plan.

I also attend the Michigan Women in Municipal Government Luncheon which featured a panel discussion focusing on training and networking opportunities for women like myself in leadership positions, and I was able to meet personally with State Senator Doug Wozniak to discuss state level decisions that affect us here in Romeo, like our Constitutional Revenue sharing and the short-term rental legislation. This was a great opportunity for one-on-one face time with the “Woz” and he assured me he is fighting for us on the Senate Floor.

I’d like to offer congratulations on behalf of the Village of Romeo to Bruce Twp Firefighter/EMT Eileen Rhodes for her 41 years of service. She was formally recognized with a beautiful engraved plaque at the Bruce Township meeting on March 16th. We thank you Eileen, for your excellent service to our community, and look forward to many more years with you on the job.

The RWB Parks & Recreation is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt! Please join them Tuesday April 12th from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Romeo High School Barnabo Field located at: 62300 Jewell Rd, Washington, MI 48094. Apparently, there has been some social media mis-information claiming this even was cancelled – but that is not true, it will be held as scheduled on April 12th. I hope you can all join us there!

Please plan to join in the Roads and other important topics discussion at the Special Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, March 30th @ 6:30 PM in the South Meeting Room. If you are unable to attend in person – the MittTV will be livestreaming the meeting on facebook and it will be available on Roku and Vimeo once the meeting video is uploaded. Due to room capacity size, I will be arranging the room to fit as many attendees as possible and the Silver Meeting Room, in the adjacent building will be setup with a video monitor for overflow crowd.

The meeting agenda includes a formal Road Capital Asset Plan proposal and discussion on funding options for much need repairs. Also on the agenda will be a Utility Rate Study update, discussion and planning for our FY2022/23 Goals & Objectives, and public Q&A. If you have any specific questions, you want addressed at the meeting, please submit them to my email: president@villageofromeo.org before next Monday.

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

Had the fun opportunity to volunteer at the DDA's WinterFest in February. It was nice to see the town so busy on that cold day. Good job to Elizabeth Miller and the DDA for a great event.

Was able to attend a facility tour of L&L Products on March 8th. Was fascinating to see how big and global their operation is with this facility in Romeo.

Last week was my final week attending Clerk's Institute through the Michigan Municipal Clerks Association. There were a lot of great speakers covering topics such as finance, parliamentary procedure, Human Resources, a special course for just Villages and even an FBI agent came to discuss ethics as an elected official. I am considered a certified Michigan Municipal Clerk.

c. Treasurer

Treasurer discussed Annual Information Statement with the published submission confirmation from Bendzinski & Company., Municipal Finance Advisors. Audit trail of supporting documentation distributed to all Board Members and residents pertaining to the original contract date of June 2019. Also, explanation from Robert Bendzinski & Co. regarding Late Filing of Audit.

d. Trustees

Trustee Hart- attended the Tree Board meeting

Trustee Edwards – Congratulated the DDA on Winterfest

Trustee Poznanski – Taking a planning and zoning course, attended Coffee and Conversation at Parks and Rec, attended the Parks and Rec meeting, made comments about the Friends of the Village Park

e. Ex-Officio Planning Commission

Trustee Fowler reported that all SLU Applications for the March 3, 2022 meeting were approved.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Bruce Sewer Capacity Subcommittee** – Did not meet.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Master Plan

Village Planner Stephen Cassin presented the Master Plan Draft for 2022

MOTION by Fowler second by Poznanski to start the 63 Day review process of the Master Plan

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

b. Cat Walk (Memorial Field) *Added Item

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to take ownership of the cat walk and maintain it

AYE: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

c. Appointed Positions * Added Item

MOTION by Parker second by Hart to table this item to the April Meeting

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Proclamation Policy
MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to adopt the Proclamation Policy as presented
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- b. Romeo Tree Board Update
Tree Board Chair Dave Miller gave a presentation about updates from the Tree Board. No board action taken.
- c. Arbor Day Proclamation
MOTION by Hart second by Parker to approve the proclamation as written
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- d. DDA Bylaws
MOTION by Bartholomew second by Parker to approve the DDA By Laws as presented
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- e. DDA Budget Amendments
MOTION by Malzahn second by Fowler to receive the DDA Budget Amendments as presented
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- f. Lawn Maintenance RFP
MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edward to approve the Lawn Maintenance RFP for immediate posting
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- g. Marihuana Business License
President Malzahn announced the newest marihuana business license approval for the Village of Romeo. No board action taken.
- h. WWTP Pump Replacement
MOTION by Bartholomew second Parker to approve the WWTP Pump Purchase from Kerr Pump in the amount of \$16,909.00
AYES: Bartholomew, Parker, Edwards, Fowler, Hart, Poznanski, Malzahn
NAYS: None
Motion carried.
- i. Washington/Romeo Water Service Line Agreement
MOTION by Bartholomew second by Hart to authorize President Malzahn and attorney Mark Clark to review and amend the agreement
AYES: All
NAYS: None
Motion carried.

j. Plante Moran

MOTION by Bartholomew second by Edwards to approve to hire Plante Moran for 120 days

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Parker second Hart to extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

k. FOIA Disclosure Legal Action

Discussion was held in regards to Trustee Parker and Trustee Poznanski's refusal to comply with State of Michigan FOIA Act

No board action was taken.

11. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Fowler second by Parker to enter into Closed Session [10:10 p.m.] for the purpose of property acquisition

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

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

MOTION by Fowler second by Parker to enter Regular Session [10:22 p.m]

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried

MOTION by Malzahn second by Hart to approve Close Session minutes for February 7, 2022 with corrections and February 22, 2022 with no correction.

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

12. Adjournment

MOTION by Fowler second by Bartholomew to adjourn the meeting

AYES: All

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,
KATHRYN TRAPP
VILLAGE CLERK**