

MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HARTFORD,
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL,
HARTFORD, ILLINOIS AT 6:30 P.M. ON THE
6th Day of March 2018

1. Mayor Hickerson called the Village Board to order at 6:30 PM.
2. Roll Call of Board Members
 - A. On roll call, the following trustees were present: Clinton Caldwell, Robert Cheatham, Heather Flanigan, Chris Fulkerson and Michelle Prickett. Trustee Jamie Harrop was absent.
 - B. Also present were: Village Attorney Chris Donohoo, Fire Chief Bill Owens, Police Chief Brandon Flanigan, Michael Goode, Christina Hayes, Mike Brame, Treasurer Sue Budde and Village Clerk Chessie Brame.
3. Pledge to the Flag
4. Establishment of a quorum
5. Approval of the Minutes: 2/20/2018
 - On motion of Caldwell, seconded by Fulkerson, it was voted to approve the 2/20/2018 minutes as recorded by the clerk. Ayes: Caldwell, Cheatham, Flanigan, Fulkerson and Prickett. Nays: None. Absent: Harrop. Motion unanimous.
6. Report from Village Clerk
 - Mayor Hickerson had mentioned at the last board meeting that the Treasurer and Clerk had been trying to find savings within the phone bills. The Clerk reported that they were able to rid the Village of 14 phone lines and/or voicemails that were being paid for monthly, some with very small usage or no usage at all. Some of the lines were showing no usage for at least the past 2 years. The yearly amount the Village will be saving is approximately \$4200.
7. Report from Mayor Hickerson
 - A. Dr. John Pearson, Superintendent of East Alton-Wood River High School, had requested time to speak on the 1% sales tax for schools but had to cancel. If anyone is interested in the information he sent the Mayor, the Mayor can forward the email to them.
 - B. On motion of Caldwell, seconded by Prickett, it was voted to approve addendum to current Labor Agreement with Local 338 regarding working weekends and holidays manning water plant and other duties. Ayes: Caldwell, Cheatham, Flanigan, Fulkerson and Prickett. Nays: None. Absent: Harrop. Motion unanimous.
 - C. Mayor Hickerson would like to keep the gym left open for free play on Thursday nights through the end of March. The Board agreed to keep it open through March and if no one shows up, they will cancel the rest of the month.
 - The Mayor congratulated Officer Tyler Timmins on his training/graduation from DARE school.
8. Report from Attorney, Chris Donohoo
 - The Village will be filing a demo complaint on the Virgin property, as they have not found anyone interested in purchasing the property.
 - Mr. Donohoo mentioned he has been working on getting the ordinances codified. They haven't been codified since 2011 so he recommends that the Village should go ahead and get that put on the next agenda and the codification cost would be approximately \$1600. IL Codification Services seem to think that the Village implemented a Chapter 29 ordinance back in the 1990's. The codification service is saying the Village got rid of Chapter 18 and replaced it with Chapter 29 but both Mr. Donohoo and the past Village attorney were not aware of it. Mr. Donohoo has not been able to find any proof that it actually was implemented so he is going to go ahead and combine the two chapters, implementing them into one. The Mayor mentioned that the current ordinance disc and book have chapter differences but both are manufactured by IL Codification Services. The attorney explained that those differences were just a mistake made by the codification service at the time they were last codified.
9. Report from Village Engineer (Absent): Nothing to report.

10. Report from Fire Department, Chief Bill Owens
 - Chief Owens said that Engine 3811 is now operational. He also mentioned that he is still trying to pursue a grant from Phillips 66 to update the rescue truck. One of the firefighters is putting in a donation request to update some of the rescue tools, in which he could receive \$15,000.
11. Report from Police Department, Chief Brandon Flanigan
 - Chief Flanigan reported that the police department had 90 service calls, 11 misdemeanor arrests and 3 felony arrests in the month of February.
12. Report from Public Works Department, Doug Preston (Absent) Nothing to report.

Report from Committees:

13. Safety Committee (Harrop, Cheatham, Prickett)

- A. Trustee Prickett said that it was mentioned that the Board may want to table the hiring of Mike Clohessy until further clarification was made on the applicant, and motioned to table it. Trustee Flanigan seconded the motion. Mayor Hickerson mentioned to Chief Owens that anytime he wants to put someone up for hire, the Mayor wants to talk with the candidate before he is placed on the agenda, so that the Mayor can meet him and tell him what is expected from him, how long he is expected to be around, etc. Chief Owens mentioned that he invited the Mayor to the interview with the candidate. Mayor Hickerson said that anytime the FD wants to hire someone, he wants the candidate stop in and talk with him. Trustee Fulkerson mentioned that there were rumors floating around on issues that need to be discussed before the Board should vote on the hiring. On motion of Prickett, seconded by Flanigan, it was voted to table the hiring of Mike Clohessy as a volunteer firefighter for the Fire department. Ayes: Caldwell, Cheatham, Flanigan and Prickett. Nays: None. Abstain: Fulkerson. Absent: Harrop. Motion carried.

14. Ordinance Committee (Prickett, Harrop, Caldwell)

- A. Trustee Prickett asked that the ordinance regarding the hiring policy be tabled until some clarification can be made. Trustee Fulkerson seconded that motion. Mayor Hickerson said that he is fully ok with the highlighted changes in the ordinance that was sent to the Trustees earlier that day, but he thinks that it takes a little more than just interviews from the committee chairperson and the department head to put the applicant on the agenda. He still thinks that the Mayor should make the approval before the candidates are placed on the agenda. Trustee Caldwell agreed to that. Mayor Hickerson mentioned that any President of a company would get final say so on who gets hired, and it's not so much about who you're hiring, but if they are up for hire. He mentioned that with what the ordinance says, that after interviews are conducted, he does think that the Mayor should have something to say before the applicant is on the agenda. Trustee Flanigan responded saying that that had never come into question. The Mayor mentioned that part wasn't originally in the ordinance and that he had to add it in. Trustee Prickett commented about everyone sitting in on interviews, in which the Mayor responded that, an interview cannot consist of two or more committee members because then it becomes an open meeting. The attorney mentioned that the department head, committee chair and the Mayor can meet to hold interviews, agree on the applicant and then put it on the agenda or they can do it the way it is written where all three can meet but it still has to be with the approval of the Mayor. Trustee Flanigan mentioned that she has it noted that the previous section B stated Mayor or committee chair and she wanted it to state Mayor and committee chair, but that the Mayor did not want to put that in there. She said that it was never to exclude the Mayor from being in on the process. Mayor Hickerson mentioned that at the time it was discussed at the committee meeting, he said he did not want to sit in on every interview of every applicant, only for qualified applicants. He said that the part he added to the ordinance in section F is that before anyone can be put on the agenda, it has to be approved by the Mayor. Before it had stated that the department head and committee chairperson could place the applicant on the agenda without the Mayor's say and he didn't feel that was right. Trustee Flanigan commented that she thinks the Mayor should have input and give his recommendation, but she feels that if the Board has decided that they have an applicant they would like to see in that position, then the Board should get that say. The Mayor said it's not the Board that is in agreement for who gets put on the agenda, and again stated that it comes from the department head and chairperson and then to the Mayor. Trustee Flanigan asked if the Mayor was saying that if there was a qualified person that either the department head or

committee chairperson felt was best for the position, then the Mayor would have the say to overrule their recommendation. The Mayor commented that wouldn't happen, but if he wanted to, he could because he feels he is ultimately responsible for everything that happens in the Village, so he thinks the Mayor should have a definite say in who is being hired and the final say of who goes on the agenda. Trustee Prickett commented that she didn't agree with that. Trustee Flanigan mentioned that there is a Board of six and not just one person in charge. Trustee Caldwell said that the Mayor is the one who makes the decisions, and that the Board is to vote on those decisions. Trustee Flanigan asked what would happen if they voted to hire someone and the Mayor said no. The Mayor responded that that probably wouldn't happen but mentioned there could be a situation where a department head was recommending a friend or relative who wasn't qualified. Then he may think that person is not the right person for the job. Trustee Fulkerson said the same could be said if there were a Mayor in the future who may have a grudge on someone that the Board finds qualified. Trustee Flanigan commented that this is a democracy, not just one person. The Mayor said that if the Board passed an ordinance and he didn't agree with it, he could veto it. Trustee Flanigan responded that the Board could then override the veto. The attorney agreed that the Board could do so with a 3 out of 5 vote. Mayor Hickerson said every bit of responsibility goes back to the Mayor. Trustees Flanigan and Prickett feel that the Board takes a lot of the blame for the way the decisions the Board makes, not the Mayor. Mayor Hickerson told Trustee Flanigan that she has been the most hard-headed person to talk to and doesn't feel she is right on a lot of things. She responded saying how disrespectful and ridiculous that sounds. She pointed out to the Mayor that he had taken out the part about the mayoral appointments but she felt it was blamed on her, and he mentioned that he might have messed that part up. Trustee Flanigan commented that they had been working together for over a year now, agreeing on many things, and now she feels that one hiring ordinance has made him turn on her. He brought up that Trustee Flanigan doesn't even want him to have a say so anymore. She feels that the Mayor should not have the final say whether the Board can vote on something or not, but she wants him to be a part of every person who gets hired. Trustee Prickett said it was discussed in the committee meeting that one way or another, the Mayor would talk with qualified applicants, like he did when the part-time clerk's position was open. Trustee Fulkerson brought up that however they did the hiring process for Officer Timmins, is how they should conduct hiring employees. The committee chairperson, department head and the Mayor interviewed Timmins and then the recommendation came from the department head. That's the way the hiring should be done and that needs to be placed in the hiring ordinance. Trustee Prickett also added that she would like to see the policy state that ads for employment be placed on the Village website as well as posted at the Village Hall. The attorney said he will look into how other Village's do their hiring policies. He mentioned that the part about mayoral appointments is the only thing that must stay in the ordinance because it is stated in the statute. Trustee Prickett thinks they are all in agreement except for removing the part about "Mayor's approval" so they shouldn't need to have another committee meeting. She suggested removing that part, giving the ordinance to the attorney for review, and to put it on the next agenda. Trustee Caldwell disagreed with removing that part because he feels by taking out the Mayor's approval, you aren't giving him the final say. Trustee Prickett said that the Mayor would be involved by helping to conduct the interviews. Trustee Fulkerson said that the way the ordinance reads, it doesn't state that all three (department head, committee chair & Mayor) would be involved in the interviews. It reads that the Mayor may participate in the interview, but it isn't stated that he has to be included. Trustee Flanigan never had a problem with the ordinance stating that the department head, committee chairperson and the Mayor all participate in the interviews. The Board has a couple issues they want to fix and the motion to table the ordinance has been made. On motion of Prickett, seconded by Fulkerson, it was voted to table Ordinance 2018-O-328 amending the Hartford Personnel Policy Manual. Ayes: Cheatham, Flanigan, Fulkerson and Prickett. Nays: Caldwell. Absent: Harrop. Motion carried.

15. Public Works Committee (Fulkerson, Flanigan, Cheatham): Nothing to report.

16. Public Utilities Committee (Cheatham, Caldwell, Fulkerson)

- Trustee Cheatham reported that the Water department spent \$210 for a 1 inch meter at Fas Fuel Piasa Lane.

17. Parks & Recreation Committee (Caldwell, Fulkerson, Flanigan): Nothing to report.

- Trustee Caldwell wanted to personally thank Chief Flanigan for helping him during his incident and also to the FD, Kerri Fulkerson and the other gentleman that was there for taking care of him until the ambulance arrived.

18. Finance & Public Buildings (Flanigan, Prickett, Harrop)

- Mayor Hickerson mentioned that Lakeside Roofing quoted the Village a bid to fix the roof at the gym. It needs to be fixed as soon as possible to prevent further damage. The Clerk mentioned that an adjuster will be sent out to see if we can claim this on the insurance.

19. Allowable claims against the Village

- A. Trustee Flanigan advised that the Village had vendor claims of \$83,523.67, plus payroll claims of \$24,066.25, for total claims of \$107,589.92. On motion of Flanigan, seconded by Prickett, it was voted to pay the allowable claims against the Village in the total amount of \$107,589.92. Ayes: Caldwell, Cheatham, Flanigan, Fulkerson and Prickett. Nays: None. Absent: Harrop. Motion unanimous

20. There were no comments from the citizens.

21. New Business from the Board

- It was discussed that the attorney will check into other area hiring policies and at this time another committee meeting was not necessary.
- The Mayor asked the Board how they want to handle going through applications for the Tower and when they want to open the Tower. It was discussed to go through the applications, eliminate unqualified applicants, and then do interviews for the remaining applicants. The Mayor mentioned that he had received 4 applications and he has talked to all of them. Trustee Fulkerson questioned if the Village needed a separate hiring policy for part-time and fulltime employees because the departments and positions are different. It was discussed that the hiring policy needs to get passed, and at this time it states full and part-time. The attorney will look into the situation but thinks most municipalities don't require that part-time people have to go before the Board. The Visitor's Bureau had hired Tower help in the past. Mayor Hickerson had suggested that him and Trustee Caldwell would go over the applications, pick out qualified applicants to interview and then put them on the March 20th agenda for hiring so there would be time to get the hiring process completed and get them working at the Tower. The Mayor felt that Trustee Flanigan had shot down his idea when he had previously presented it to her, but she said she encouraged it. It was discussed that the Mayor and Trustee Caldwell would go through the applications together so that applicants could be placed on the upcoming agenda. The Mayor said the days and hours of operation will be the same as last year, but he would really like to have 2 employees working at the same time for safety reasons and in case of tours or large groups.
- Trustee Prickett talked about putting together a committee for the Tower. The Mayor mentioned that Mr. Bullard is putting together a contract for the Tower activities and that the lawyer will review and present it to the Board for ideas. We can always put the idea of a Tower committee out there and see what happens. Since community involvement is down, it is hard to form those kinds of committees.

22. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

James F. Hickerson
Village President

Village Clerk, Chessie M. Brame