

VILLAGE OF HARTFORD BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL ROOM  
140 WEST HAWTHORNE  
HARTFORD, ILLINOIS 62048  
January 16, 2024  
6:30 PM

1. Call to order.
  - A. Mayor Robertson called the meeting order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call of Board Members: the following members present: Mayor Bill Robertson, Bernie Caldwell, Chris Fulkerson, Kristie Luebbert, Bill Moore, and Michelle Preston. Also, present Attorney Chris Donohoo, Village Clerk Carolyn Daniels, Treasurer Chessie Brame, Leadman Ed Sebastian, Fire Chief Jarrod Horyn, Jake Sanders, Barry White, Police Officers Dan Geil & spouse, Matt Asbury & spouse, Deanna Coleman, Tylers Morris, Chris Westbay, Citizens/Public - Lewis Haines & spouse, Danny Waugh & spouse, Mike Brame, Eric, Buddy Manley, and Gary Phillips.
4. Establishment of a quorum
5. Approval of the Minutes:
  - a. Board Meeting: January 2, 2024, motion made by Bill Moore and seconded by Kristie Luebbert to approve the minutes. Mayor Robertson asked if there were any discussions. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion Carried.
6. Report from the Village Clerk, Carolyn Daniels –
  - a. There will be 2 Community Meet and Greets at the Village Hall. January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm with Democrat Nick Raftopoulos and March 20<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm with Republican Amy Elik.
7. Report from Mayor Bill Robertson
  - a. Motion made by Kristie Luebbert and seconded by Bernie Caldwell to approve Matt Asbury as acting Chief of Police until May Appointments. Mayor Robertson asked if there were any discussion. Ayes: Caldwell, Fulkerson, Luebbert, Moore and Preston. Nays: None. Motion carried.
  - b. Motion made by Kristie Luebbert and seconded by Michell Preston to approve promoting Deanna Coleman to Police Sergeant. Mayor Robertson asked if there were any discussion. Ayes: Caldwell, Fulkerson, Luebbert, Moore and Preston. Nays: None. Motion carried.
  - c. Motion made by Kristie Luebbert and seconded by Bill Moore to approve the 2024 PEP Grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the park to be spent on pavement for new Pickle Ball Courts. Mayor Robertson asked if there were any discussion. Ayes: Caldwell, Fulkerson, Luebbert, Moore and Preston. Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. Report from Attorney, Chris Donohoo –

- Attorney Donohoo received the consent to demo for 211 E. Fourth, only caveat he promised not to knock it down until at least May. He will contact the county and get the process going because he is sure there is a wait. The other homes he will have to go to court to get the orders. Trustee Luebbert asked why we have to wait until May. Attorney Donohoo said, apparently it is full of stuff.

9. Report from Village Engineer –

- Mayor Robertson said, the engineer is in the process of allowing LKQ to run a casing under Rt. 3 to their new property for water and sewer, and LKQ is set to pay the \$22,000.00 to run it.

10. Report from Public Works Department, Ed Sebastian –

- The furnace went out at the public works building so they will need to replace it. The current one is 70 years old, and they cannot get any parts for it. The new one will be approximately \$3000.00.

11. Report from Fire Department, Fire Chief Jarrod Horyn

- Still waiting on the invoice from Banner for the cost of repairs to the first engine. The engine is back and running well.

12. Report from Police Chief, Matt Asbury

- New truck came in and waiting lights.

Report from Committees:

13. Safety Committee (**Moore**, Fulkerson, Caldwell) –

- a. Motion made by Bill Moore and seconded by Chris Fulkerson to approve the “Village of Hartford Compensation Agreement with Phillips 66.” The agreement allows the Village to charge for Police callouts for the crane crossings at Rt. 3 and Rt. 111, and for administrative payroll processing. Mayor Robertson asked if there were any discussion. Ayes: Caldwell, Fulkerson, Luebbert, Moore and Preston. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- b. Motion made by Bill Moore and seconded by Bernie Caldwell to approve hiring Lewis Haines as a full-time police officer subject to drug testing, physical and background check. Mayor Robertson asked if there were any discussion. Ayes: Caldwell, Fulkerson, Luebbert, Moore and Preston. Nays: None. Motion carried.

14. Ordinance Committee (**Aldridge**, Luebbert, Moore) –

- Per Mayor Robertson we have a house in a residential neighborhood that has 12 cars, so he has asked Chris Donohoo to review ordinances. The police have already issued several citations.

15. Public Works Committee (**Caldwell**, Luebbert, Aldridge) – Nothing at this time.

16. Public Utilities Committee (**Fulkerson**, Moore, Preston) – Nothing at this time.

17. Park & Recreation Committee (**Luebbert**, Preston, Caldwell) – Nothing at this time.

18. Finance & Public Buildings (**Preston**, Fulkerson, Aldridge) – Nothing at this time.

19. Allowable claims against the Village

- a. Trustee Preston reported vendor claims of \$111,306.88, plus payroll claims of \$38,257.98 for total claims of \$149,564.86. On motion by Michelle Preston, seconded by Kristie Luebbert, it was voted to pay the allowable claims against the village in the total amount of \$149,564.86. Ayes: Caldwell, Fulkerson, Luebbert, Moore and Preston. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

20. Citizens Comments – Nothing at this time.

21. Unfinished Business from the Board –

- Mayor Robertson stated he received a call from Dollar General, they are still interested in building here as long as they can get TIF money. They will be sending in what they want and as long as it is on budget, we will have further discussions with them. They want to build a Dollar General Market on Rt. 3 and Piasa (Tower side).

22. New Business from the Board –

- a. Buddy Manely from Greenway Energy Solutions and Solar provided a presentation on going solar. Mr. Manely did a mock-up on the gym showing our average bill is \$775/per month. After putting solar on with no money out of pocket the bill would run \$389/per month, which is a considerable difference. He would like the opportunity to discuss putting solar at each of our facilities. He can also offer us a solar farm. If we have a piece of property in the township where they can put the solar farm what would happen is Ameren would rent that piece of property from us every month and then the energy the panels produce Ameren buys it back from us. So, it is a fantastic way to make revenue for the Village. The last solar field they did in Litchfield produced that community a little over \$63,000/per month in revenue. He is local and their office is in St. Peters. His business has done solar for IKEAs, and Topgolf's. Trustee Caldwell asked what is our cost? Mr. Manely said there is no cost out of our pockets. The State of Illinois will give you a grant we will not have to pay back, plus we will get a tax credit. At the end of the term that we choose 7, 10 or 25 years then you have zero power bill. Mayor Robertson asked that he provide us with a write-up that we can look at and then get back to him.

23. Adjournment – 6:51 pm

- a. A motion by Bill Moore, seconded by Bernie Caldwell to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Robertson asked if there were any discussion. All in favor signify with saying Aye. Those opposed say Nay. Aye unanimous.

  
Carolyn Daniels, Village Clerk

  
William Robertson, Mayor