

Village of Winthrop Harbor
President and Board of Trustees Meeting

March 16, 2021

Village Hall Council Chambers

ZOOM BOARD MEETING - MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bruno at 7:00 PM

The following Elected Officials **Attended Remotely**:

Mayor: Dr. Michael Bruno

Trustees: Buddy Hargett, Robert Marabella, John Levin, Dana McCarthy, Hartmut "Fritz" Weiss, Alanna Whitmore

Also present:

Robert Long, Attorney
Greg Jackson, Village Administrator
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk
Michael Sheedy, IT Director
Joel Brumlik, Police Chief
Alicia McCoy, Interim Fire Chief

The Invocation was led by Mayor Bruno

ABSENT OFFICIALS WISHING TO ATTEND REMOTELY

All Officials attending remotely

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **March 2, 2021 Virtual Regular Board Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore

Nays: (0)

Absent: (0)

Passed: (0)

MAYOR'S REPORT

V.F.W. – Request for a Raffle License (April – December 2021)

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2 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **V.F.W. – Request for a Raffle License (April – December 2021)** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

RESOLUTION 2021-R-5 An Appointment Resolution Appointing John T. Bausch – Part-time Police Officer

3 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Resolution 2021-R-5** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

Mayor Bruno let everyone know that the application process for the Fire Chief is now closed. The committee will be meeting this Thursday to review the applications. Will keep you posted.

The search for a Police Chief is now open and we are accepting applications. Will also keep you in the loop.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- The Board will be receiving a copy of a Memorandum that was completed yesterday, about a vision and strategy session that senior staff is requesting with the Board of Trustees and the Mayor to talk about fiscal sustainability as well as our efforts towards community and economic development. We’re looking at some time in mid-May.
- The budget documents are being completed by staff. They will be turned in to me by Friday.
- Greg said that he is not on social media but when things are posted on social media, they are brought to our attention. Some resent information came out and he wanted to make sure it is addressed, because the public has a right to understand some of the issues. Social media stated that some of the Trustees had voted on some taxes. It was said that a Winthrop Harbor Trustee would be voting in favor of a gas tax. That is misinformation. Based on our status as a non-home ruled community, any vote on a tax that would affect anything outside of the property tax, would have to go to referendum. A Trustee would not have the authority to approve a tax. The next question was, are we raising water rates? We had talked about looking at the water rates. Superintendent Nearing had brought it to Greg saying, our water rates are not sufficient to cover what is necessary to run the business. The water and sewer are enterprise funds. An enterprise fund is a business fund. It is to be self-sustainable. The money that comes in, supports the services and goods that go out. The purpose of an increase in the water

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rates are to off-set the increased expense for water and water delivery service to the Village of Winthrop Harbor as well as the equipment necessary to make sure that water delivery is properly taken care of. Nothing has gone before the Board yet. There has not been a decision to raise those rates. It may or may not happen.

Trustee Hargett thanked Greg. He said that some of these issues can be confusing, where is the authority and what decisions can be made. The fact that we have been very intentional in saying that we want to overturn every rock possible, to understand every option, to achieve our goals. It's a good sign that the public is reaching out and asking what this is about. It speaks to the trust that we have been able to establish with the community.

Mayor Bruno said the gas tax has gone up but it wasn't us, it was the County Board.

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None Reported

OLD BUSINESS

None Reported

NEW BUSINESS

Accounts Payable Warrant

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Levin to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2020-17** in the amount of **\$163,556.40**. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

Request to Ratify Approval for Fee Agreement with Partners in Design Architects

5 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **Request to Ratify Approval for Fee Agreement with Partners in Design Architects** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None Reported

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Weiss – Finance Department

- Thanked Greg for the work that he’s been doing especially with the budget process. Will be meeting with Greg on Thursday to review the budget. Very excited about it.

Trustee Marabella –Public Works

- Road patching will be starting.
- April 5th they will be starting to do the bridge work on Holdridge.
- Starting hydrant and valve replacement or updates.
- The new Eagle Scout project is up. New batting cages are awesome.
- Please watch your speed as we warm up because the kids will be out.

Trustee McCarthy – Police Department

- As we come up on a year of quarantine, wanted to thank all of the Village Staff who have adapted and worked through all of this.
- Told the Mayor that he appreciated him having a prayer for each meeting.

Trustee Whitmore – Recreation Department

- Baseball, T-Ball and softball is starting. Please feel free to sign-up on-line.
- We will be hosting our annual Easter egg hunt. April 1st at 6:45pm we will be having our first ever glow in the dark Easter egg hunt for ages 9-up. On April 3rd starting at 9:00am we will have our regular Easter egg hunt for ages, infant to 9 years old followed by a Bunny Walk around 38 Acres. Sign up on-line to register.

CLOSED SESSION

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to move the meeting into **Closed Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) of the Open Meetings Act.** Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote and the meeting moved into Closed Session at 7:25pm.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

OPEN SESSION

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Levin to move the meeting into **Open Session with no action taken.** Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote and the meeting moved into Open Session at 8:05pm.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

ADJOURNMENT

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8 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Hargett to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m. on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

APPROVED:

DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK

Note: This is not a verbatim record.