

Village of Winthrop Harbor  
President and Board of Trustees Meeting  
**December 21, 2021**  
Village Hall Council Chambers

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## **MINUTES**

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

The following Elected Officials were present:

Mayor: Dr. Michael Bruno

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

Also present:

Robert Long, Village Attorney/Interim Village Administrator  
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk  
Rocco Campanella, Fire Chief  
Tim Neargarder, Superintendent of Public Works  
Edward Mohn, Police Chief

The Invocation was led by Pastor Doug Carlson from Grace Missionary Church followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

### **ABSENT OFFICIALS WISHING TO ATTEND REMOTELY**

None Reported

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1** - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **November 16, 2021 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**

**Oath of Office for Christopher Szafranski – Promoting him to Full-time Police Officer**

Police Chief, Ed Mohn introduced Officer Szafranski and gave background information on his career as a police officer.

Mayor Bruno did the swearing in of Officer Szafranski.

**RESOLUTION 2021-R-20 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Kyle A. Macko as Part-time Police Officer**

2 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Resolution 2021-R-20** 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)**

**ORDINANCE 2021-O-30 An Ordinance Amending the Wage Policy Ordinance of Winthrop Harbor to Provide Severance Pay for the Village Administrator**

3 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **Ordinance 2021-O-30** and approve as submitted. 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)**

**Village Administrator Employment Agreement**

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Village Administrator Employment Agreement**, 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)**

New Village Administrator, David Alaracon, thanked the Board for their support and confidence in hiring him. He said he looks forward to rolling up his sleeves and working on the vision that

the Board has. Also, working with his fellow team members, Department Heads and all of the employees of the Village.

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ROBERT LONG FOR HIS SERVICE**

Mayor Bruno said Bob Long has done so much in the Interim Village Administrator position. He's done an outstanding job. He then read the proclamation.

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Interim Administrator Long, said the reason we have success over the last 24 ½ years is because of the dedication of the people that work for the Village. He said he wasn't talking about himself, he's talking about the Department Heads, Police Officers, Firemen, the guys in Public Works, the support staff, everybody, especially the people that you don't see every day. They are there in the most difficult circumstances. The dedication is reflected in everything those people do. This is something I didn't completely understand, until I sat in the Interim Administrator's office for the last 6 months. I knew most of them for many years. But only when you see the way they operate, and how much effort, honesty, integrity and dedication they put into their work for this Village, can you begin to see what makes a community, is at the core, the people you selected to represent you and deliver the services needed.
- Attorney Long told the Board that they have a Vision, a strong Vision, that was developed over 2 decades. With all of the Vision sessions, we have come to show what all of the challengers and needs are, from a financial and manpower aspect. We have shown there is a financial way to move forward. Be careful of the use of your finances and very conservative financing should result in sparking the rebuilding of Sheridan Road in the business corridor. Let's utilize our resources to the best of our ability. Make sure we don't forget what the Vision is and keep it alive. Look at it again and again and if it need tweaking, tweak the vision but don't deviate from it. Think about the Vision and what it's going to bring for everyone. Remember the Vision and make it work!

**CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

None Reported

**OLD BUSINESS**

None Reported

**CLOSED SESSION**

5 - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Levin to move the meeting into Closed Session for the Purposes of **Pending Litigation Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)**. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote and the meeting moved into Closed Session at 7:20pm.

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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes 12/21/21

**Absent:** (0)  
**Passed:** (0)

**OPEN SESSION**

6 - 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 8:08pm.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Accounts Payable Warrant**

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2021-9** in the amount of **\$213,444.69**. 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 Approval to Enter into a Professional Design Services Agreement with Sanjay R. Singhal for an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,500 for the Completion of a Conceptual Site Plan for the Triangle**

8 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve the request to **Enter into a Professional Design Services Agreement with Sanjay R. Singhal for an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,500 for the Completion of a Conceptual Site Plan for the Triangle** as savings of about \$15,000. 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)

**A Motion to Approve Contract with Stratus to Clean all of Village Hall Plus the Public Works Facility as Presented and to Terminate Existing Contracts for Cleaning**

9 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve the **Contract with Stratus to Clean all of Village Hall Plus the Public Works Facility as**

Regular Board Meeting Minutes 12/21/21

**Presented and to Terminate Existing Contracts for Cleaning.** 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)**

**ORDINANCE 2021-O-31 An Ordinance Amending the Wage Policy Ordinance of Winthrop Harbor Reflecting Increase in the State Minimum Wage – Adopting, under section E10, the Alternative, Showing a \$15.00 an Hour Wage.**

**10 -** A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **Ordinance 2021-O-31 approving a \$15.00 an Hour Wage under Section E10.** 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)**

**A Motion to Ratify Expenditures of \$6450.73 to All Fleet, Inc. for the Repair of Unit #6, 2007 International Dump Truck**

**11 -** A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **A Motion to Ratify Expenditures of \$6450.73 to All Fleet, Inc. for the Repair of Unit #6, 2007 International Dump Truck** 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)**

**Request to Approve Covenant Cove & Village Park Pond Maintenance Contract**

**12 -** A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Covenant Cove & Village Park Pond Maintenance Contract** 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)**

**A Motion to Ratify Expenditure of \$3959.00 to Medical Providers for Performing Job Physicals for Fire Personnel to Comply with OSHA Requirements**

Regular Board Meeting Minutes 12/21/21

**13** - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **A Motion to Ratify Expenditure of \$3959.00 to Medical Providers for Performing Job Physicals for Fire Personnel to Comply with OSHA Requirements** 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)**

**ORDINANCE 2021-O-32 An Ordinance Declaring Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale or Disposal Thereof – one (1) 2011 Ford Expedition #1792**

**14** - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Marabella to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **Ordinance 2021-O-32** and approve as submitted. 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)**

**Fire Department Discussions – Fire Chief Rocco Campanella**

- 1. Firefighters Association Donation – 2 Tablets for ambulances (\$5,063.00) for EMS reports**
- 2. Lake County ETSB Awarded Fire Department – 1 Tablet for one of our trucks (\$3,000.00)**
- 3. Recognize Bill Beetschen for Years of service and his Retirement – retiring at the end of this month. 47 years of Fire service. With the Village since 2008. Invaluable person to have in the community helping. It’s going to be a big loss to us. His expertise will be missed. January 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have a ceremony for him called his “walk-out”.**
- 4. Sale of Engine #1712 – got \$12,000.00 in an auction.**
- 5. Today we received a box of wipes from a grant that was submitted from an organization in Texas.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Trustee Whitmore - Awarded this year’s Residential and Business Christmas Decorating Contest. Thanked our 2021 Miss Winthrop Harbor Queens, Quinn & Becca as well as Chief Campanella who took on the task of driving around to all of the decorated homes and picking one home and one business. This year’s residential winner is, 520 Holdridge Avenue and the Business is, The Sweet Shop. Trustee Whitmore will be distributing the prizes, donated by Mayor Bruno, tomorrow. All of the houses that participated are on the website. Drive around and look at all of their hard work. From this year, moving forward, we will be dedicating our Christmas Decoration Contest in honor of Keith Peacy. He was a dedicated member to

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes 12/21/21

Winthrop Harbor's Fire Department, along with North Chicago and Bonnie Brook. He loved Christmas.

Marina Owen – 421 Ravine Drive – Congratulations to all of the honorees. Received a Public Notice for a hearing on the expansion of the landfill. The hearing is January 10<sup>th</sup>. She's interested in what, if anything, Winthrop Harbor has negotiated already. Either fee wise of protection for the neighbors. She was told that we did sit down to discuss a variety of issues and the contract did not change. She told the Board that she will be going to the meeting and if the Board had a list of things, that they would like her to present, she would be happy to. Russell Road is nice but there is no bike lane. She was hoping it would be safer.

Barbara Barkley – Tracy's Bistro – Thank you for the second Liquor License. After the last meeting someone said they wouldn't mind having 2 Tracy's here. Wanted to know if it would it be possible to keep both Liquor Licenses or would that be something that needs to be put before the board? She was told that the Board approved the second license with the understanding that when the second location was up and running they would give up the first license. There was no formal agreement, just a handshake with Tim. Barbara said they don't want to break a handshake deal. The Mayor asked her to come to the Board for permission. We agreed to help by giving them a Liquor License so they could get the gaming license. Then the other business would close. Several of the Board Members said if it was originally presented as keeping both locations, they would have voted differently. The original ask was from Tim because he needed help getting a gaming license. He was not able to get a gaming license until he had a liquor license. He asked if there any way we could help him. He was told that if he wanted two, he should come in and ask for two. She said if the Board is not in favor, we will honor the agreement. The Mayor said to have Tim come before the Board if he wants to keep the two licenses.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### Trustee Whitmore

- Thanked everyone who participated in the Christmas Decorating Contest.
- Thank you to everyone who came to Lunch with Santa along with the Parade. We had a really good turnout.
- Condolences to the Peacy Family. He was a huge member of this community.

#### Trustee Levin

- Asked that everyone lift the Peacy Family in prayer. He was a great guy to work with. He was a great spirited person.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### Trustee Weiss

- Echo the same for the Peacy Family. To have people who work so hard for the community and love the community. We have that with all of our staff here.
- Wished everyone very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and stay healthy.

#### Trustee Hargett

- Condolences to the Peacy Family. He and his wife have been very involved in the community. Honoring the family, moving forward, with the decorating contest is a great idea.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes 12/21/21

- We honored Bob Long with a resolution tonight but he's worn a lot of hats for the Village as, the Village Attorney, Interim Administrator, neighbor, as well as his involvement with the PZB and the EDC. Thanked him for helping us with this transition. Appreciates all that he has done for this Village.
- Dave, we're ready to hit the ground running.

Trustee McCarthy

- Seconded all of the other comments made.
- Wished everyone a safe Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- A big thank you to all of our staff, especially Public Works, Fire and Police who have to work outside and be away from their families. Thank you for keeping us safe.

Trustee Marabella

- It's hard to lose a pillar of our community. Thanks for recognizing him.
- The parade was awesome. It was the same route. A lot of people came out.
- Thanks to Bob for everything he does. He does a lot. He is a part of this community.
- Snow plowing is coming up. The trucks are ready and the salt barn is full.
- Everybody have a good holiday. Glad to be back to my fiery self.

Mayor Bruno

- Keith Peacy is a good friend of mine. He loved this Village. He will be dearly missed. Glad the Christmas decoration contest will be named after him. He would be smiling because he loved Christmas.
- Thanks to Bob Long. You're a good friend. He's a resident, a great Attorney and he has helped this Village in many instances throughout the years.
- Wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe Happy New Year.
- Will be out of town starting Monday for about 2 and a half weeks. Won't be here when Dave takes his seat but like Buddy said, we're going to hit the ground running.

**ADJOURNMENT**

15 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Levin to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 8:52p.m. on the following roll call vote.

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

**APPROVED:**

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**DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**



Regular Board Meeting Minutes 12/21/21

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**JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK**

**Note: This is not a verbatim record.**