

Village of Winthrop Harbor  
President and Board of Trustees Meeting  
**January 19, 2021**  
Village Hall Council Chambers

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## **ZOOM BOARD MEETING - MINUTES**

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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  
Justin Stried, Fire Chief  
Pat DiPersio, Community Development  
Ed Mohn, Deputy Police 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 Levin and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **December 15, 2020 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**

**ORDINANCE 2021-O-1 An Ordinance Ratifying and Extending Mayoral Declaration of Emergency Relating to Coronavirus**

**2** - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and Seconded by Trustee McCarthy to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **ORDINANCE 2021-O-1** 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)**

**RESOLUTION 2021-R-1 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Gerry Woods to the Police Pension Board**

**3** - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve **Resolution 2021-R-1** 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)**

The Mayor said Chief, Justin Stried, will be moving on to be Zion's Chief and has resigned his position here. Congratulations on obtaining the position of Chief in Zion. Congratulated him on being our Chief for the last 7 years. The Mayor said he's going to miss him. It's going to be hard to see him go. The Mayor said he has set up a committee to find another Chief. That Committee consists of, Village Administrator, Jackson, Village Attorney, Robert Long, himself (Mayor Bruno) and Michael Stried. Michael Stried was a 29-year member of the Winthrop Harbor Fire Department, the last 16 years, as Chief. He's been in the fire service for the last 38 years. He teaches at the National Fire Academy and is a graduate of there. He teaches in Glenview at the NIPSTA, which is the Northeast Illinois Public Safety Academy. He is a professional consultant and is involved in looking for an Assistant Chief for a Fire Department in Michigan. He's been doing this for a number of years. He's honored to be part of this committee because this fire department means a lot to him.

Chief, Justin Stried said he's still around and still a proud Village resident. He will help for as long as the transition takes, with whoever will be taking his spot. There will be a lot of things that he can't just hand over the key and say "tag, you're it". He will be around and visible in the Village. The staff in the Fire Department means so much to him. It's been an enjoyable 7 years as Chief. He's been affiliated with the Department since 1996. The position in Zion, professionally and personally, he couldn't turn down. Thank you to the Mayor for his generosity and the support of the Board over the years. Thank you all.

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Greg told Justin, good things happen to good people. We wish him Godspeed as he takes on this new role.
- **TABLED** - The Board was given a pretty extensive package on the Tree Preservation Ordinance. It includes the Administrator's letter of recommendation, the Ordinance itself, a power point presentation that the Sustainability Committee put together as well as a set of email communication that was sent to us about positions as it related to the Tree Preservation Ordinance. In addition, Julie received 4 more today, that were not included in the package, but were sent to you today, for you to review. The roll of the Advisory Committee, as it was formed about a year ago, was to be an advisory committee to the Mayor and staff on opportunities to make Municipal Government practices more eco-friendly and to look at ways for outreach and education in the community about eco-friendly projects. It was mainly to address the issues of how to pave our roads in the most eco-friendly way. This came about in a Board Meeting when a group of citizens addressed the Board about the need for a Tree Preservation Ordinance. We took this opportunity to use the development of a Tree Preservation Ordinance as a vehicle of discussion. For some reason, there's an idea, just because this Ordinance was presented to staff and some of the Elected Officials and it was going to the Board today, that it was dead. This is the next step in the policy making process. This was presented to Greg Jackson in February 2020 and we got hit with COVID less than 30 days after that. We all know what happened to our human resources, our financial resources and significant reductions in staff. The greatest concerns with this proposal, is some of the lobbying efforts once this proposal was drafted and distributed. Communication to potential supporters, left a little bit to be desired. There was some misinformation circulating out there. It got a little bit messy. Mr. Jackson's recommendation, that was presented, was the result of the committee concurrently drafting and submitting the Ordinance to us and us continuing to look and see if there was a need for a Tree Ordinance. Staff thought there wasn't. Today Greg sent the Board a copy of the GIS for the tree canopy and as you can see, we have a significant tree canopy. This is something we should be proud of and not take for granted. We have not had a full vetting of this proposal. We have heard from a group of residents who live near a particular property, who have voiced their desire for preservation of trees. We have plenty of ordinances, which address the tree canopy. We also have strong intergovernmental agreements with both the Army Corp of Engineers and Storm Water Management as it pertains to environmental issues. The staff members and Elected Officials reviewed the ordinance objectively, with an open mind. In the last 18 months, we planted 81 trees in the Village. Trustee Whitmore was part of that planting. Staff was also part of that planting. The Board was presented with options as part of the policy making process. Policy doesn't happen over-night, especially in government. Because Mr. Jackson doesn't agree with the need for an ordinance due to the existing ordinance and the tree canopy, doesn't mean he dismisses the view of the individuals who support the Tree Ordinance. It was agreed to **TABLE** the ordinance until at later date, post COVID, to begin discussions with staff and members of the Board, that the Mayor designates. To the credit of the members of the Sustainability Committee, they worked hard on the document they put together. Their intentions were to have a Tree Preservation Ordinance adopted by the Village Board.

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The Mayor thanked Trustee Whitmore and Trustee Hargett for reviewing the Ordinance. The Mayor agrees with coming back with some type of Ordinance that is educational and collaborative. We have to wait to get through COVID so we can get more residents, in the Village, to chime in on this.

Trustee Hargett said he appreciated being a part of this. He thanked the Sustainability Committee for the time and effort that they put into this. Talking to Rebecca, one of the primary authors, her passion is clear and evident. Our canopy coverage is pretty incredible. He sees value in having a Tree Preservation Ordinance. There is still some refining to be done and he is happy to be a part of that and work more closely with the Sustainability Committee. Trustee Hargett is good with Tabling this.

Trustee Marabella said there would be a substantial cost to the Village and we would have to keep that in mind.

Trustee Whitmore thanked Rebecca and the entire Sustainability Committee. They put a lot of time and energy into this. They went through several community Ordinances to put this together. She didn't want their time and energy to go unnoticed. We do need to have something in place but she doesn't want to over step homeowner's rights. We need to meet in the middle and make it fair for the entire community.

Trustee McCarthy said that over two years went into the Comprehensive Plan and he feels it's important to go back to it, every once in a while, to see where we are with it. There was very extensive research and he feels like we should look to see how this would fit into the Comprehensive Plan and what we might need to update. He feels it is relevant to what we are doing and it's supposed to be a living document that helps guide us. It might be a good time to incorporate this into it.

- The house passed some heavy, unfunded mandates with law enforcement reform. The Criminal justice reform involves the purchase of bodycams. Greg still going through it and looking at IML notes.

### **CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

None Reported

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None Reported

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Guidelines and Approval Procedures for TIF Grants Supporting the Sheridan Road TIF Redevelopment Plan**

Trustee Hargett gave huge kudos to Pat. This has been going on since before COVID and he thanked Pat for continuing to move this along. The goal of the TIF is to increase the values of the properties in that corridor.

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve **Procedures for TIF Grants Supporting the Sheridan Road TIF Redevelopment Plan** 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)**

**DOCKET #01-PZB-21 PZB Recommendation to Approve Docket #01-PZB-21 and the Petitioner's Request for a Variance to the Front Yard Setback Requirements of the Winthrop Harbor Zoning Code for R2 Properties**

The PZB unanimously approved this variance

5 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Docket #01-PZB-21 and the Petitioner's Request for a Variance to the Front Yard Setback Requirements of the Winthrop Harbor Zoning Code for R2 Properties**. 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-2 An Ordinance Approving a Variance to Lafayette and Melissa Knox to Allow Construction of a Residence Encroaching Over the Front Yard Zoning Setback Line (File #01-PZB-21)**

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett 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-2** 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)**

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2020-14** in the amount of **\$175,783.45**. 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)**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**8** - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Treasurer's Report** 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)**

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT**

Trustee Levin made a motion to discuss the disposal of the 1996 Seagrave fire engine. The fleet is aging and is in need of extensive repairs. This is the reserve engine and is also used if Zion's engine breaks down. John Tobin (with Seagrave) has worked with the fire department for years and will work with us to sell this engine. It's possible we could get, give or take, \$30,000.00 for it.

Chief Stried said if we were to use it anymore we would have to put money into it but if we sell it now, we could get something while it still has some value.

Greg Jackson said we are looking to move forward with a FEMA Grant to purchase a new engine. We would probably have a match to that. If the Board is ok with it, we could take the money from the sale of engine 1712 and save it to help us with our share of the Grant.

### **ORDINANCE 2021-O-3 An Ordinance Declaring Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale thereof – One (1) 1996 Seagrave Engine #1712**

**9** - A motion was made by Trustee Levin and Seconded by Trustee Whitmore to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **ORDINANCE 2021-O-3** 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)**

**Status update on the Fire Staffing Committee**, Trustee Levin said they met on January 7<sup>th</sup>, it included, Trustee Levin, Trustee Weiss, Greg Jackson, Assistant Chief, Stone and Chief Stried. They discussed many potential ways to over come the current staffing issues. They discussed the benefit vs. cost in today's economy and down the road. They held a brief meeting, via conference call, January 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss looking into a contract. We need to look it over and double check it before it can be presented to the Board. Chief Stried said we should have

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something by February 2<sup>nd</sup> to present to the Board. Chief Stried wanted to have conversation with staff and how it would impact them.

**ACCEPTANCE OF K9 GRANT FROM DAS CHARITABLE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,600.00**

**10** - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Weiss to accept **K9 Grant from DAS Charitable Fund in the Amount of \$6,600.00**. 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 OF THE FY2021/22 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**11** - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **the FY2021/22 Street Improvement Program** 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**

Clerk Rittenhouse said there were 4 emails received before 4pm 1/19/21 regarding the Tree Preservation Ordinance from: Marilyn Livingston, Rita, Mike and John Higgins, Eric Tjader and Joy Mix. The Board was provided copies of all emails.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Trustee McCarthy – Police Department

- Wanted to let everyone know that we did receive all of the emails regarding the Tree Ordinance and will take all of their input into consideration.
- Thanked the Sustainability Committee for all of the work they've done. Wants to continue to move forward and make the best possible choices
- Thanked the Staff for all they are doing
- Thanked Chief Stried for all of his years of service. Congratulations and as much as we hate to lose you, we are proud of the fact that you are continuing to lead in our community. Thank you for your service.

Trustee Marabella – Public Works

- Hope Chief Brumlik and his wife get better
- Public Works had an issue last week but we recovered
- Working hard salting

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- Appreciate all of the time and effort with the Tree Ordinance. Their time was not unwarranted.
- Justin, as a resident, I'm glad for you, as a Public Official it hurts my heart because you did an amazing job for us. He created a good community. Thank you for everything you've done.

Trustee Whitmore – Recreation Department

- Congratulations Chief Stried and thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. It's going to be very hard to find someone who has the dedication that you've put into this Village for the last 7 years. Thank you and congratulations.
- The Sustainability Committee and especially Rebecca, took a lot of time to put together the proposal for the Tree Ordinance. We would love to work with them again moving forward.

Trustee Levin – Fire Department

- Wished Chief Stried the best in Zion. It's going to be nice. You will always be available for insight. We appreciate everything you have done in the community. Wish the guys at the firehouse the very best. Wish them luck and safety

Trustee Weiss- Finance Department

- Congratulated Justin on his promotion. It was a pleasure working with you. Thank you for the hard work and all the input that you had and the transition you will be doing for us.
- Thanked the Sustainability Committee for all of their hard work and effort.
- Thanked Staff and Greg for the hard work that they are still doing

Trustee Hargett - Community Development

- Congratulations to Chief Stried. Excited for you and your family. You were always willing to take time and talk. Thank you and congratulations.
- COVID – we did move to tier 2. It still does not allow for indoor dining but we are trending in the right direction. Gaming did reopen. You can sign up on the Lake County Health Department allvax portal for the vaccine ([allvax.lakecohealth.org](http://allvax.lakecohealth.org))

Mayor Bruno

- Thanked Greg for keeping him in the loop when he's not there and the Department Heads for all they do. They are working twice as hard because of the cut backs. Appreciates all everyone does for the Village
- Thanked Justin. You are a friend and always will be. Going to miss you. We will see you in town. Congratulations and good luck....don't be a stranger.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**12** - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21p.m. on the following roll call vote.

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



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**APPROVED:**

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**DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK**

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