

Village of Winthrop Harbor  
President and Board of Trustees Meeting  
**January 18, 2022**  
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  
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk  
David Alarcon, Village Administrator  
Ed Mohn, Police Chief  
Rocco Campanella, Fire Chief  
Tim Neargarder, Public Works Superintendent

The Invocation was led by Pastor Tim Bycroft from North Point 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 **December 21, 2021 Regular 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)**

2 - A motion was made by Trustee Levin and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve the **December 27, 2021 Emergency Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (4) Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (2) Hargett, Whitmore**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**RESOLUTION 2022-R-1 An Appointment Resolution Appointing David Alarcon as Interim Building Official and Zion Benton Enterprise Zone Member**

**3 -** A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve **Resolution 2022-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)**

**RESOLUTION 2022-R-2 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Lou Velez as a Part-time Police Officer**

**4 -** A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Resolution 2022-R-2** 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 2022-O-1 An Ordinance Amending §125.01(E) of the Municipal Code of Winthrop Harbor Increasing Video Terminal License Fees (\$250.00 per terminal)**

**5 -** A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Hargett to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **Ordinance 2022-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)**

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Village Administrator, David Alarcon, thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

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- With Pat's departure, we've done a little bit of restructuring. Dave recognized the Administration team for stepping in as part of the interim plan. Thanked Julie's team for helping. Pat Callahan is doing the inspections and in the interim he is going to do the lower level permit reviews. Dave was named interim Building Official for the purpose of signing off on building permits. Pat Callahan will also be checking up on existing permits. He will also be taking drives in different sections of the Village to make sure everyone's in compliance with our Building permit requirements. Making sure there is not work being done without permits.
- B & F Code Services, which is going to be an action item with this agenda, conducts reviews of building permits and also conducts inspections when needed. They will be utilized as backup service when we look at much larger scale projects. They will also do zoning reviews, when needed, for more complex projects. Trustee Hargett has also offered assistance when it comes to zoning reviews. Dave appreciates him stepping up.
- There's an action item for a service agreement with GovTemp. This is going to provide us with an interim Finance Director. The immediate goals will be to produce year to date reports for the Board and Department Heads, to review our policies and procedures and make recommendations. Also to make recommendations on the current Financial software. In collaboration with the Fire Chief, we're also going to have them review our ambulance billing services. We're hoping, if approved, we would be moving on filling this vacancy with the Temp Agency.
- We had our first Department Head staff meeting on Wednesday. We are utilizing the Department Heads as a "think tank" and open up communications between departments in hopes that we can more efficiently run the Village. Bring ideas to the Village Board, to help fulfill the goals of the Village Board. Thanked everyone for their participation.
- Dave has worked in two communities and neither had a Fire Department. This past week he experienced his first fire. He wanted to commend the personal of the Winthrop Harbor Fire Department for their rapid response that saved the structure. Also Dave commended the collaboration of the Police Department and Pat Callahan. They efficiently were able to provide a tremendous service to the residents in a matter of minutes.

**CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

None Reported

**OLD BUSINESS**

None Reported

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Accounts Payable Warrant**

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6 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2021-10** in the amount of **\$205,310.53**. 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)**

**Ratification of The Annual Tax Levy Ordinance**

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve **Ratification of the Annual Tax Levy Ordinance** 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)**

**Approval of a Service Agreement with BF Code Services, Inc. for Building/Zoning Services**

8 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve the **Service Agreement with BF Code Services, Inc. for Building/Zoning Services** 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)**

**Approval of a Service Agreement for Temporary Financial Services with GovTemps**

9 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **Service Agreement for Temporary Financial Services with GovTemps** 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**

Barb Domerchie – 432 Kirkwood – Moved into the Village about a year and a half ago. Her and her husband have decided to get politically involved. She has been appointed as a Precinct committeeperson and will be running to be elected this year. She has also taken over the committeeperson for Benton Township. There will be a meet and greet next Tuesday, January

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25<sup>th</sup> at Shepherd's Crook Golf Course. We hope anyone interested would come meet one of the candidates and get to know them. Tickets are \$5.00 and it starts at 6:30.

Marina Owen – 421 Ravine Drive – Was at the last meeting and was under the impression that the Village of Winthrop Harbor does not have a host agreement with the landfill, but they do. If the Village does get money, they need to make sure they get the best expansion that we can possibly get and the most protection for the neighbors that we can get. Being at the meeting, Lake County and SWALCO have a host agreement that has a public engagement opportunity as part of it. There's going to be a website where people can file complaints and the company's going to post their reports there. Somebody asked if Winthrop Harbor would be included and the answer is "yes". That's a very positive step forward for all of us who are concerned about various things. There is still public comment, there's another hearing tomorrow at the High School from 4-8pm. There's going to be a written comment period, for 30 days after tomorrow.

Trustee McCarthy said, just to be clear, we have no legal authority. We have some leverage when it comes to public opinion and if there's an environmental issue. We have no legal position when it comes to bargaining, only if they violate something environmental wise or if people have complaints.

Brenda Dickson – 3002 Highland Ct. – Also Precinct Committeeperson. It's my understanding that when the Illinois EPA expanded the landfill, Winthrop Harbor had absolutely no say in it. Winthrop Harbor still has absolutely no say in it. I live off of Roberts Road on Highland Court and I have to smell the methane at night, in the morning. She can't have her windows open. There's a phone number that you're supposed to call every time that you smell methane. When they are burning and the wind is just right and we have our windows open, we get brown soot on our furniture. We have no say in it, are you kidding me? Those of us that have to smell that, it's unacceptable. I can't believe that we, as a community, can't do anything about it. She asked if we could put the phone number in the Village's Newsletter every time it goes out. Brenda welcomed Mr. Alarcon. She asked if using a Temp Agency to fill a position and using a third party for inspections, only when it's necessary, what cost is that going to be to the residents? Those are pretty steep fees. She was told its part time with no benefits.

The \$5.00 fee for bringing in candidates is to offset the cost of rent for Shepherd's Crook. We now have almost all precinct positions full.

Beth McGinnis – 320 Deerpath Dr. - Asked if the State of Illinois has awarded the Village of Winthrop Harbor the opportunity to open a cannabis shop? She was told yes but no licenses have been issued. No official requests have come before the Board.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Whitmore

- Basketball is going on.
- The Fun Fair will be February 26th

Trustee McCarthy

- Thank you Dave for hitting the ground running and all of the staff for coming together with all of the changes
- If Pat were here, I would thank and congratulate him.

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Trustee Hargett

- Welcome Dave.
- Even though Pat's not here, the fact that we are having to break apart these different skillsets, he was wearing a lot of different hats for the Village. I'm thankful for his time here and he will be missed. I wish him luck. Wadsworth got a good one.

Trustee Marabella

- Baseball/Softball signup is starting the 31<sup>st</sup>. It usually runs through March.
- Public Works are doing well with what they have. They're still down a man. They're doing a great job.
- There have been a couple snow activities and they have been handled well. We are communicating with the Police Department.
- Congratulations to Dave. He seems really ambitious and will do a good job.

Trustee Levin

- Welcome Dave. I look forward to working with you.

Trustee Weiss

- Welcome Dave. I've worked with him in a few meetings and he is moving fast already. We've had a couple of good meetings some of the investments that we are making with the temporaries, in the future, in the long term, is going to mean a savings for the Village of Winthrop Harbor. That's what I'm looking forward to.

Mayor Bruno

- Welcome Dave. We had a good lunch meeting.
- Thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**10** - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to move the meeting into Closed Session for the Purposes of **Collective Bargaining Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)**. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote and the meeting moved into Closed Session at 7:45pm.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

**11** - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss 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 8:22pm.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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**12** - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Levin to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23p.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:**

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**JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK**

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