

Village of Winthrop Harbor  
President and Board of Trustees Meeting  
**March 2, 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  
Alicia McCoy, Interim 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 Weiss and seconded by Trustee Levin to approve the **February 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**

**ORDINANCE 2021-O-6 An Ordinance Ratifying and Extending Mayoral Declaration of Emergency Relating to Coronavirus**

**2** - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett 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-6** 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-3 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Patrick DiPersio – Zone Management Board of Zion Benton Enterprise Zone**

**3** - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Hargett to approve **Resolution 2021-R-3** 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-4 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Robert Jones – Part-time Police Officer**

**4** - A motion was made by Trustee McCarthy and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve **Resolution 2021-R-4** 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 said that we have gotten several applicants for the Fire Chief position. We will be expanding our search to see if we can get a few more. It will be another two weeks. The panel will have a final look and interview.

We will do the same for the Police Chief. The panel will consist of Mayor Bruno, the Village Administrator, the Village Attorney and Police Chief Steve Balinski. Chief Balinski has 44years of law enforcement experience. He's former Police Chief of the Village of Buffalo Grove and currently the Chief of Police of the Village of Kildeer. This will be happening within the next few weeks.

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Asking the Board to look at the Sign Code again and also enforcement of the Sign Code. Attorney Long explained that all the Board can do is discuss it. It has to go before the Zoning Board first.
- Need thoughts from the Board on Branch Pick-up. Should we continue or not with Branch Pick-up? Public Works is down a person and a half and don't know when those numbers will go back up. We spend 3 days a week, for 5 weeks, 4 people a day, almost 20 hours per person per week to do Branch Pick-up, where we could be filling pot holes or other items related to the streets. We are one of the few communities, in Lake County, that does Branch Pick-up. Trustee Marabella said there are a lot of people in the community that like this program. I like it but it does take away from other things that can be done. Trustee Whitmore suggested limiting the number of times per year. Trustee Hargett suggested that we make the public aware that Groot will pick up bags and cans of branches. Trustee Hargett asked if there were some way people could drop branches off at Public Works. Trustee McCarthy said communication is the biggest thing. Whatever we decide, we need to be very clear and concise with the communication. Administrator Jackson said if they make a decision tonight, it can be put in the Newsletter. Administrator Jackson made a suggestion to look at a method of illuminating or reducing the pick-up for the Fall and continue pick-up in the Spring. The Board liked his idea.
- There are 4 pieces of legislation that are going through the Senate.
  1. House Bill 1810 - Increases the amount of gaming per machine from \$25 to \$1,500. It would take us from \$1,450 to \$87,000 per year.
  2. House Bill 0865 – Allows non-home ruled sales tax to go from 1% to 2%. Our Village does not collect a non-home ruled sales tax and never has. Administrator Jackson thinks the Board should take a look at this.
  3. Senate Bill 1739 – Allows for additional non-home ruled tax to be imposed for the purpose of going directly to pension funds.
  4. House Bill 1918 – Provides powers to tax and impose fees and incur debt. Non-home ruled Municipalities shall exercise all of the powers provided to home ruled units of Government. If that piece of legislation would pass, it would give our Village the authority to exercise those powers.
- There is still interest in a potential cannabis dispensary in Winthrop Harbor. Administrator Jackson has a meeting with a prospector Thursday.
- Fire Chief McCoy and Administrator Jackson have been looking at ambulance billing rates to see if they are where they should be with other communities.
- In April, we are going to present to the Board, the recommendation for approval, a water rate increase. It has been 4 years since the last increase. The recommendation that will be brought forward is, a schedule so we have incremental increases so we don't have a large increase on the water users at once.
- The State mandated Sexual Harassment training is complete, short of a few people.
- Linda's Restaurant expansion was approved. It seems to be attracting additional business.

Virtual - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 3/2/21

- Staff was asked to present Administrator Jackson with shovel ready projects.
- The Board will be presented with a contract, at the next meeting, asking to approve an adjustment to the scope of the construction of the Public Works building.
- The Tavern redevelopment plan is once again on the table.

**CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

None Reported

**OLD BUSINESS**

None Reported

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 2021-O-7 An Ordinance Formally Adopting the Zoning Map for the Village of Winthrop Harbor**

5 - 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-7** 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**

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2020-16** in the amount of **\$204,426.71**. 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**

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

- Looking forward to the Budget process.

Trustee McCarthy – Police Department

- Also looking forward to Trustee Weiss looking at the Budget process and hearing what he has to say. Thank you Trustee Weiss.
- We've all seen the letter from Chief Brumlik. I can't say enough about how appreciative I am of Chief Brumlik and his service of the last 20+ years. Before I was on the Board, I was a member of the Police Commission for 6 years and being able to serve as a liaison for Police Department, as a Board Member, with Joel as Chief, has been an honor. I appreciate his approach. He's a great model of what a Department Head, a Leader and a public servant should be.

Trustee Marabella – Public Works

- Plowing was really good. They did a great job even down a man. Tim's doing a great job.
- We're going to start patching.
- We will be going out to clear drains but also suggested the residents try to clear them as well.
- Interesting times with the changing of Department Heads. Things are changing
- The Budget is huge. Money is limited with very limited resources. We're going to have to decide as a group, what we are going to do. They're hard decisions. As a Board, we've done a great job.

Trustee Levin – Fire Department

- The Fire Department recently had a graduation.
- We began our Metro Contract. It's working out good.
- Alicia is doing a great job.

Mayor Bruno

- They did a phenomenal job with the snow plowing. Between here and Waukegan, Winthrop Harbor has the cleanest roads. Kudos to them. They work hard.
- Thanked Alicia. Mayor Bruno went to the graduation. Very nice to see Justin get his Chief helmet. Mayor Bruno was glad to be able to make this graduation and hopes to make them in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**8** - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Levin to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46p.m. on the following roll call vote.

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

Virtual - Regular Board Meeting Minutes 3/2/21

**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.**