

VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2021

The Zoom Village Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Stephan. Present via Zoom were Trustees Alexander, Augustine, Berman, Eddy, Odom, and Ulrich. Also present via Zoom were Chief Administrative Officer Jeannine Smith; Village Attorney Michael Smoron; Village Clerk Janice Hansen, Interim Chief of Police Rossi, and many members of the public.

President Stephan introduced Interim Chief of Police Rossi. The Interim Chief will monitor the Police Department and address any needs that may arise and work with the Board to provide the community of Lakewood the highest level of police services. He is in his office everyday; he is an early riser so he is in the office by 6:30/7:00 a.m. If there is anything you need just give a call. He will enjoy working with all of you.

President Stephan commented that regarding Public Act 98-0738 amended the Illinois Counties Code and the Illinois Municipal Code creating additional reporting requirements for audits, effective January 1, 2015 the following are now required for all Counties, Cities and Villages in Illinois within 60 days of the close of their audits: The auditors must provide a copy of any management letter and the audited financial statements to each member of the City Council or Village Board members; if the municipality maintains a website, this information must be posted on the website; and the auditor must present the information from the audit to the City Council or Village Board of Trustees either in person or by live phone or web connection during a public meeting. Please be advised that the Village was not issued a management letter between 2015 and 2019 and we have confirmation of the same from the Village Auditor. This confirmation will be placed on the Village website. For the FY2020 Audit, however, the Village did receive a management letter which will also be placed on the Village website. It is important to note that the internal control weaknesses have been or are in the process of being addressed; up to and including the termination of the responsible employee.

President Stephan remarked that there have been questions on fishing the Turnberry Lakes. The Turnberry Lakes have been home to ice fishing for decades and everyone should know that the rules have not changes and are being enforced by the Lakewood Police. Last year we adopted the Turnberry Lake fishing rules into Village Code so that there would be no question when the Police should enforce them. Fishing passes and boat stickers remain free of charge to residents with Turnberry Lake rights and can be picked up at Village Hall during normal business hours.

President Stephan addressed Police vehicle maintenance. It has been suggested that our Police Department is driving unsafe vehicles, specifically with balding tires. This is simply not true. The Police conduct a walk around before each shift and report to Officer Wiegel for any car equipment issues and Sgt. Cole any maintenance issues. Our Police cars get a lot of use. The Village owns four vehicles with only two operating per shift. This allows us to have back up vehicles in the event of a downed vehicle or a vehicle scheduled for service. Finally, with regard to the tires, new tires were installed on two squads on December 29, 2020 as part of the department's regularly scheduled maintenance. We thank residents for their concern of our

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Police Officers and want to assure you that there are procedures in place and that the safety of all our employees are always a top concern.

On a final note,. President Stephan stated that it is his understanding that the investigation of Sgt. Cole and report findings will be complete by the next Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Elizabeth Dalzell of 9226 Bard Road sent an email on January 8, 2021 regarding 60 signatures on nomination petitions that Mr. Berman stated were forged; to date, I have received no response. On January 8, 2021 she had her signature notarized, which she had to sign ten times and have proof via her driver's license. She is disgusted being dragged into the fruitless objection. Did the Board inspect these signatures; you can see there are two different styles of writing? What ever disagreements the Board may have with one another, there is a need to talk to one another. In the future, if Mr. Berman thinks that residents have committed a felony, please research your allegations. She demands that Trustee Berman resign from the Board of Trustees.

Tricia Babischkin at 8404 Trevino Way. I'd like to know where \$123,000 is suddenly missing from the Impact Fee Fund. I see no expense, nor authorization that would account for this. But when I reviewed the audit, I see that there was a transfer for nearly the exact amount from the Impact Fee Fund for the Hampshire Road project. The problem is that on July 23, 2019, the Board approved the Hampshire Road project to come from the General Capital Fund. So, how is it that the board approved money to come from a specific place and our CAO spent it from an entirely different fund? Are you also aware that Impact Fees are restricted funds and likely should not have been used for that project without an inter fund loan? In the last board meeting, both Phil and Jeannine mocked our Trustee Odom who asked about the transfer from SSA #1 to SSA #8 as they claimed it was done years ago. So I went back every financial statement, including every audit, for three years, there has been a notation that there would be a transfer from SSA #1 to SSA #8 to cover the deficit amount I'm asking the board to do the job they were elected to do, which is to provide fiscal oversight of this Village in sharp contrast to their statements at the last Board meeting. It's to provide oversight and good stewardship over the money and assets of our Village, and your failures to do this is costing our Village money. This is your legacy in our village. What will you be remembered for? "A better Lakewood or a broker Lakewood?"

Pat Rexroat 7411 Fairway commented that what Liz Dalzell said, he couldn't have said it better. Ryan Berman suggesting forgery with a complete absence of skill in detecting forged signatures is horrible. He is asking Mr. Berman why he is objecting to these particular signatures. This is just my question.

Shelby Younge 6915 Inverway piggy backed with Pat Rexroat and Liz Dalzell, she has a couple of questions for Ryan Berman, not an interrogation. I am curious that 67 signatures were questioned including hers as felony forgery signatures. What was your reason? We would like to know where this nonsense came from. How can the Board let Mr. Berman do this? What is the

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motive? Was it a way to get rid of the opposition? To the rest of the Board, how can you let him do this, shame on you. How much money are we spending on the ridiculous nonsense. Trustee Berman does not represent the residents. And Phil how can you tarnish a 22 plus year employee's reputation. She is not the Financial Director, she just does what she is told. These errors should have been caught by the CAO or Treasurer.

President Stephan commented that SSA #1 has no funds.

CONSENT AGENDA: The following were considered and enacted on a single motion by Trustee Augustine, seconded by Trustee Berman:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 22, 2020 Village Board Meeting

APPROVAL OF BILL LISTS:

- a. Accounts Payable PrePaid Invoices Dated December, 2020 in the Amount of \$9,046.91

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

- a. Village Financial Statements for the Periods May 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020
- b. RedTail Golf Club Financial Statements for the Periods May 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020
- c. Lake Patrol Financial Statements for the Periods May 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020

Voting Aye: Trustees Alexander, Augustine, Berman, Eddy, and Ulrich. Voting Nay: Trustee Odom. Motion declared carried.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: Trustee Alexander asked for the Accounts Payable Invoices Dated January 30, 2021 in the Amount of \$137,231.12 removed from the Consent Agenda. Within the Accounts Payable Invoice list there is a check for Trustee Alexander for a bond refund for a home construction project.

Trustee Ulrich, seconded by Trustee Augustine, moved to approve Voting Aye: Trustees Augustine, Berman, Eddy, Odom, and Ulrich. Voting Nay: None. Abstain: Alexander. Motion declared carried.

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01 – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OR DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD: The Village Board asked for additional revenue streams. Surplus property will put of more roof tops. Eight of the eleven surplus lots have been sold. We are taking a liability and turning into profitability.

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Trustee Alexander, seconded by Trustee Berman, moved to approve Ordinance 2021-(01). Voting Aye: Trustees Alexander, Augustine, Berman, Eddy, Odom, and Ulrich. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT AN OFFER TO PURCHASE REDTAIL LOT #20 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,500: President Stephan remarked that the purchase amount is 80% of the appraised value.

Trustee Berman, seconded by Trustee Eddy, moved to accept an offer to purchase RedTail Log #20 in the Amount of \$12,500. Voting Aye: Trustees Alexander, Augustine, Berman, Eddy, Odom, and Ulrich. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF REDTAIL LOT #20 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,500:

Trustee Berman, seconded by Trustee Ulrich, moved to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute a contract for the purchase of RedTail Lot #20 in the Amount of \$12,500. Voting Aye: Trustees Alexander, Augustine, Berman, Eddy, Odom, and Ulrich. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

REPORTS: CAO Smith commented that McHenry County is moving to tier 2 on Friday, January 15, 2021... Details will be placed on the Village website.

Trustee Berman commented that he is not addressing election petition objections at this time. He did this as a resident. You all know that Jason McMahan filed objections against four proposed candidates; Phil Stephan, Dan Alexander, Pam Eddy, and Bill Wayne long before he filed his objections. His objections are not costing the Village that much money. He does not like to waste money. If Jason McMahan drops all his objections, Trustee Berman is open to do the same and let the residents decide who to vote for. Lets both stop wasting Village money. Trustee Berman works for the residents of the Village of Lakewood, not individuals; this is a misunderstanding. We make decisions in the best interest of the Village. He takes this job very seriously.

Trustee Eddy commented that the McHenry County Health Department is signing up individuals over 65 for the Covid vaccine. Information can be found on their website. This is for levels 1B and 1C.

Trustee Odom questioned Village Code regarding the home on Inverway that still has remnants of the fire. Why hasn't the scene been secured with fencing for safety? CAO Smith will contact HR Green to follow up with the property owner.

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With nothing further to discuss, Trustee Ulrich, seconded by Trustee Augustine, moved to adjourn the meeting. Voting Aye: Trustees Alexander, Augustine, Berman, Eddy, Odom, and Ulrich. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried... The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Janice S. Hansen
Village Clerk

Approved: _____ Dated: February 9, 2021