

**VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**JULY 25, 2017**

The Village Board Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. at RedTail Golf Club by President Serwatka. Present were Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Also present were Village Clerk Janice Hansen; Village Attorney Michael Smoron; Village Engineer Jason Fluhr from Baxter & Woodman; Michael Waldron from Strand, Associates; and many members of the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** President Serwatka expressed frustration about the east side flooding. He has spent an abundant amount of time assessing the situation. The Village has contracted tankers to pump as much excess stormwater sewage from the lift station and transporting it to the Haligus Road Waste Water Plant. The Board does not have any solutions at this time, but will be looking into many scenarios to assist all residents. President Serwatka feels that the past Board spent too much time and money for engineering and planning development on Routes 47/176 and the construction of a new Village Hall while ignoring the basic necessities of the Village.

Many east side residents attended the Village Board Meeting to voice their flooding experiences, concerns, and displeasure. Many residents had up to seven feet of sewerage water in their basements or crawlspaces. Countless homes have appliances, hot water heaters, and furnaces destroyed by the flooding. Homes have been pumping endlessly with no real relief. Several residences are not livable due to the sewage flowing through their basements and living spaces.

Many residents questioned the new lift station and sewer piping, which they believe to be inadequate.

A Red Cross Representative attended the meeting and shared information; free flood home cleanup; Crisis Clean-Up 1-800-451-1954; American Red Cross Flood Hotline 1-847-220-7495; and also suggested the Emergency Management of McHenry County Web Site.

Engineer Michael Waldron of Strand Associates, who designed the new east side sewerage system, attended the Meeting to field questions. Mr. Waldron highlighted the pump station's design criteria. He also discussed flow meter data with five years of sewerage statistics before constructing the new system. This design uses five times the normal flow and should have been sufficient; but the torrential rain was too much to handle.

Village Engineer Jason Fluhr of Baxter & Woodman commented that the Village has televised and lined all main lines of the system several years ago. As soon as the water subsides, there will be manhole inspections for deficiencies and staff will continue to investigate illegal sump pump hook ups. This rain was a very unusual situation. Crystal Lake has over flowed, the first time in memory. The Village surveyed the east side residents in 2007, with only a third participating, and tried to help find solutions at that time for flooding. It was up to the residents to implement the suggestions. Residents with overhead sewers have had no or minimum amounts of flooding.

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Michelle Harrod of Midwest Water Group, Inc. spoke that her company specializes in sanitary manhole structures and excess water leaving sewer lines. The Village has hired Midwest Water Group to inspect the 95 manholes within the east side of the Village. This will assess the areas of interest that need immediate attention.

President Serwatka suggested a Committee comprised of residents to help make better decisions for water solutions.

President Serwatka will contact Crystal Lake Mayor Aaron Shepley to ask for help with transporting a portion of the sewerage being pumped into one of their facilities.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The following were considered and enacted on a single motion by Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Stephan:

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:** Accounts Payable Invoices Dated July 26, 2017 in the Amount of \$111,397.02

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** Village Financial Statements for the Period May 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017; RedTail Golf Club Financial Statements for the Period May 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017; and Lake Patrol Financial Statements for the Period May 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017

Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**ITEMS REMOVE FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** July 11, 2017 Regular Village Board Meeting

**APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-24 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE:** Attorney Smoron commented that this Ordinance was considered at the Planning and Zoning Committee Public Hearing before the Regular Village Board Meeting to dissolve the Planning and Zoning Committee and transfer all of its powers and duties under the Village's Zoning Ordinance to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee Ritchie, moved to approve Ordinance No. 2017-24. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

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**APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-28 – AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE FROM SECTION 10.3 OF SECTION 10, RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD FOR 445 CRYSTAL COURT:** Attorney Smoron stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission met on July 19, 2017 to hear a variance for 445 Crystal Court to construct a three car garage addition. This addition will have a 5 foot maximum encroachment into the 26 foot 5 inch required southern side yard setback. All Commissioners voted aye with the exception of Chairman O’Hara. Chairman O’Hara believes that the proposed improvement triggers a variance request that is not hardship driven since the house has an existing extra wide 2 car garage with expansion opportunity that would not require a variance.

Trustee Ritchie expressed concern about setting a precedent in granting such a variance. Trustee Davis commented that the east side of the Village has many unusual shaped lots which are difficult to build additions to enhance living space.

Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Ritchie, moved to approve Ordinance 2017-28. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahan, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT #1 TO ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN AN AMOUNT OF \$290,750.12 FOR THE 2017 LAKE AVENUE ROAD PROJECT:** President Serwatka commented that the Village Board approved this project on December 13, 2016 with eligible federal STP funding. This project is funded by 80% federal funds with the Village paying the remaining 20%. The Village added several side streets to the 2017 Village Road Contract to realize economies of scale, but the cost of these are 100% to the Village since these streets are not eligible for federal funds.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee McMahan, moved to approve payment #1 to Illinois Department of Transportation in an Amount of \$290,750.12 for the 2017 Lake Avenue Road Project. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahan, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**APPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL FROM MIDWEST WATER GROUP, INC. FOR A MANHOLE INSPECTION SURVEY FOR THE EAST SIDE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,700:** President Serwatka stated that Midwest Water Group, Inc. will conduct services for a manhole inspection survey for the east side of the Village with a scope of services to include; inspection using a camera for each manhole, prepare repair recommendations and a ratings report, and provide an external hard drive for our records.

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Trustee Ritchie, second by Trustee Davis, moved to approve a proposal from Midwest Water Group, Inc. for a manhole inspection survey for the east side of the Village of Lakewood in an amount not to exceed \$5,700. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2017-R29 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT AND THE EXISTENCE AND FORMATION OF THE ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARM SYSTEM BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION:** Chief Roth stated that this system mutual aid and support for law enforcement was implemented approximately ten years ago and used by many neighboring municipalities. The Village of Lakewood will benefit from the resources ILEAS has to offer as well as the manpower. The cost of this program is \$60 annually. The agreement will assure officer and citizen safety, and improve efficiency.

Trustee Davis asked Chief Roth to check into liability coverage and insurance for those Officers that assist in Village calls.

Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Rexroat, moved to approve Resolution 2017-29 contingent upon liability coverage and insurance findings. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH LEXIS NEXIS ELECTRONIC CRASH REPORT SYSTEM AND THE VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD AT NO COST TO THE VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Roth commented that this system is over 300 agencies and most police departments in McHenry County use the system to produce a crash report for motorists involved in traffic incidents. There is no cost to the Village and does not have an anticipated expiration date. This system provides a “cleaner” copy of crash reports to motorists, while reducing the workload to our Police Records Manager and the Department will be compensated for traffic crash report requests.

There was general discussion regarding privacy issues.

Trustee Ritchie, seconded by Trustee Stephan, moved to approve an Agreement with Lexis Nexis Electronic Crash Report System and the Village of Lakewood at no cost to the Village Police Department. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**APPROVAL TO THE HIRING OF WILLIAM MCCORKLE AS A POLICE OFFICER BEGINNING JULY 31, 2017:** This agenda item was not considered.

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**APPROVAL OF THE HIRING OF PAUL OLSZAK AS A POLICE OFFICER BEGINNING AUGUST 2, 2017:** Chief Roth highlighted Paul Olszak's skills, accomplishments, and professionalism as a well seasoned Police Officer.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee McMahon, moved to approve the hiring of Paul Olszak as a Police Officer beginning August 2, 2017. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM MARENGO WELL & PUMP COMPANY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,809 TO ABANDON AND SEAL WELL #2:** At the Tuesday, July 11, 2017, Village Board Meeting Municipal Well and Pump was awarded the contract to abandon Well #2. Low bid was in fact Marengo Well and Pump Company. This agenda item is to clarify the error.

Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Stephan, moved to accept the proposal from Marengo Well & Pump Company in an amount not to exceed \$16,809 to abandon and seal Well #2. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEM: UPDATE FROM JULIE HEATHER MEISTER REGARDING PROGRESS OF THE CONSULTING SERVICE AGREEMENT:** Ms. Meister highlighted her consulting findings to the Board; engagement purpose, scope and goals; approach and inputs; outputs; strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats. Also presented, was a Village staff organizational chart.

President Serwatka thanked Ms. Meister for all her efforts. He commented that she is a Lakewood resident who has worked in the private sector for many years. He would like the Board to consider hiring her for an interim period as a regular at-will employee for the Chief Administrative Officer Position. After much discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board to hire Ms. Meister with a 90 day review period for this position. Attorney Smoron mentioned this item can be ratified at the next meeting.

Ms. Meister thanked the Board for their support and offered to return the \$10,950 she has earned in her consulting service agreement to assist the flood victims of the Village. The Board accepted this offer.

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**APPROVAL AND RATIFICATION OF TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF SHANNON ANDREWS AS OF 5:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017:**

Trustee McMahon recused himself from this discussion and vote because President Serwatka did not respond to his email on July 16 or July 23, 2017 requesting information regarding the termination of Deputy Village Manager, Shannon Andrews. As such, he is unable to properly fulfill his duties as Trustee regarding this matter.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee Ritchie, moved to approve and ratify the termination of employment of Shannon Andrews as of 5:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2017. Voting Aye: Trustees Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Abstain: Trustee Davis. Motion declared carried.

**APPROVAL TO ELIMINATE THE POSITION OF DEPUTY VILLAGE MANAGER AS OF 5:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017:**

Trustee McMahon recused himself from this discussion and vote because President Serwatka did not respond to his July 23, 2017 email request for information presented in the Northwest Herald article regarding the restructuring of the Village Administration. Additionally, the Board has yet to be provided with written a re-organization plan from Consultant, Julie Heather Meister. As such, he is unable to properly fulfill his duties as Trustee regarding this matter.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee Ritchie, moved to eliminate the position of Deputy Village Manager as of 5:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2017. Voting Aye: Trustees Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Abstain: Trustee Davis. Motion declared carried.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2017-R30 – A RESOLUTION TO CENSURE TRUSTEE MCMAHON:**

Trustee McMahon would like the record to reflect his objection to the surprise interrogation that occurred during the comment portion of the July 11, 2017 Board Meeting; as well as his objection to publishing Resolution No. 2017-R30 and the entire censure proceeding at this Meeting. Trustee McMahon is recusing himself from this discussion and vote.

President Serwatka highlighted the reasons for this Resolution and read the Resolution in its entirety. He added that he worked with Attorney Smoron to draft this Resolution with no legal fees being incurred.

Trustee Stephan commented that this censure Resolution is a fresh start in having the Village Board come together as one.

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Trustee Ritchie expressed his displeasure with some Board members during the last two meetings. Some statements should be retracted. He suggested that the Board should stay away from petty bickering.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee Ritchie, moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-R30 – A Resolution to Censure Trustee McMahon. Voting Aye: Trustees Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: Trustee Davis. Motion declared carried.

**REPORTS:** Trustee Davis commented that he was less than pleased with the last three agenda items.

Trustee Davis stated that Crystal Lake is at a 60 year high, 15 inches over the weir. This is truly a crisis. Public Works has been pumping into the Riverside Creek and it is showing results. Ground water that was covering Richmond Lane with 4-5 inches of water has receded. Several years ago the Board approved a program to pay Baxter and Woodman engineer to assist residents with sump pump issues and yard drainage. They also partial funding to help homeowners install over head sewers. Many homeowners benefitted from these program..

Trustee Ritchie would like to discuss, as an agenda item, the potential move of the Village Police Department to a new location in the near future.

With nothing further to discuss, Trustee Ritchie, seconded by Trustee Stephan, moved to adjourn the meeting. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

Janice S. Hansen  
Village Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: August 8, 2017