

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HAMEL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday April 19, 2023
7:30 PM at Village Hall
111 South Old US Rt 66, Hamel Illinois

The Village of Hamel Special Board meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry Bloemker at 7:30 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Trustees Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Goebel
Absent:

PRESENT:

Mayor: Larry Bloemker
Village Clerk: Debbie Belville
Village Attorney: Louis Laugges

GUESTS:

Justin Gerstner-Mayor Elect
Alan Winslow
Kathy Winslow
Darlene Runge
Raymie Isringhausen
Officer Ahlmeyer
Officer Duke

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

MAYOR REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve **request of new laptop/computer equipment up to \$2,000- for Mayor Elect Justin Gerstner.** made by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Isringhausen. Roll call: Recer, Goebel, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny.
Motion carried (5-0).

Motion to approve **RESOLUTION 23-7: APPOINTING ALAN WINSLOW CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE VILLAGE OF HAMEL, ILLINOIS.** Made by Trustee Isringhausen and seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll call: Gorzny, Otrembiak, Recer, Isringhausen, Goebel.
Motion carried (5-0).

Chief Alan Winslow was sworn in by Clerk Belville and he was given the Chief's badge.

Chief Winslow said a few words; he first thanked everyone for the opportunity and expressed his excitement about this position. He said there is a unique situation here, where the residents have come to the Village and asked that a police department be built with 24/7 police coverage.

The Chief said there is a lot to offer here for the right people. Hopefully within a reasonable amount of time, even with recruiting being a bit difficult right now, hope to get this moving right away. The Chief thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Trustee Goebel said he missed the March meeting due to work but wanted to say a few things.

Trustee Goebel said prior to becoming a Trustee, he was approached about being a write in candidate for the board. Justin said he did sit in on a few meetings prior to becoming a Trustee to get an understanding of how things work, during that time Ron Mulach was the Mayor. Justin said he remembers some of those meetings going 2-2 1/2 hours long! During the 12 years Justin has been on the board, Larry, and Donny (who is absent- and will not hear all the accolades) have done incredible things.

Justin read a list of things that have happened over the last 12 years. The population is up 25-30%, the general fund was at \$363,000 and now it is \$568,000, the water fund was at \$220,000 now \$722,000 and the sewer fund was at \$285,000 and now is up to \$477,000. The entire water meter system updated and paid for, painting the outside of the water tower, and major repairs done on the inside of the tower, Donny has always had great marks and reports from the EPA, the lagoon has been increased by 50%, without increasing the footprint, and this was all paid for. The Village does not level a property tax. There are two business districts, state revenue received in 2011 was \$254,000, now state revenue is \$767,000. Loves, Dollar General were added to the Village, resurfaced the tennis courts, updated the basketball court, new restrooms at the park, solar at the community building, digital park sign, camera coverage in the Village has been greatly increased, Christmas light, and the addition of a jet truck for public works, dog park, and acquire property for a new park on the north end of Hamel. The goal of 24/7 police coverage has still not been met, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find able body people to fill the positions and the costs have increased over the last ten years. But hopefully this will still happen.

Justin said he is pleased with the engineering firm and Bob Massa that we have now along with our legal firm from Sandberg Phoenix, Phil Lading.

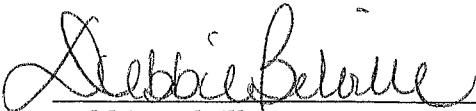
A lot of good growth in the Village.


Trustee Goebel also stated this will be talked about at the meeting next month and will be on the agenda. With the incoming new Mayor, he does want to look into, and he wants the Board to support the idea of creating a position that would handle things like ordinance, zoning, codification, and things of that nature on the interpretation side of things. He said it would save us money as far as calling Sandberg Phoenix, Scott Hanson and it would be benefit to our new Mayor and the Board, also to Debbie, Daneen, and Donny. This person could also do newsletters, Facebook, and social media and he said this is what Larry has been doing. Justin said he wants the Board to support this.

Congratulations were given to Chief Winslow again.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Trustee Goebel, seconded by Trustee Recer, all in favor, all ayes. Time out 7:43 p.m.

Approved at the Village of Hamel Board Meeting May 9, 2023.


Debbie Belville
Village Clerk


Justin Gerstner
Village President/Mayor