

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HAMEL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday December 13, 2022
7:00 PM at Village Hall
111 South Old US Rt 66, Hamel Illinois

The Village of Hamel Board meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry Bloemker at 7:00 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Trustees Reter, Isringhausen, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Goebel, Behrhorst
Absent: Trustee Gorzny

PRESENT:

Mayor: Larry Bloemker
Village Clerk: Debbie Belville
Village Attorney: Phil Lading
Village Engineer: Bob Massa
Public Works Director: Don Grimm

GUESTS:

Justin Gerstner
Nathan Hutson (MCC)
Karen Luster

CONSENT AGENDA:

Regular monthly bills, treasurer report, minutes from November 8, 2022. Motion to pass consent agenda by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Behrhorst. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Behrhorst, Goebel. Motion carried (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor asked for any public comments at this time, there was none.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor attended the PEP Grant/CDBG meeting today at Madison County. The PEP Grant will be on the agenda for the January meeting, this is for the dog park/basketball court. We do not qualify for the CDBG (community development block grant), our income level is too high. The PEP Grant will be turned back over to the County to cover what we received for the dog park and the basketball court.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Buhs reported a total of 6 case reports were generated this month. For November there was 376 entries for service. The new portable radios have been ordered, unknown delivery date. The installation of the new computers for the squad cars has been delayed due to the technicians being so backed up. All required training is up to date for each Officer. Our new Officer, Albert Duke successfully completed the 40-hours online course. He started the 80-hour transition academy on 12/5/22. He will start solo patrol in Hamel on 12/19/22. He will be working a 7:00 pm to 3:00 am shift. Chief advised with the current manpower, the Village has approximately 60 % coverage for the Village, this includes evening and weekends. Trustee Goebel asked if we had any leads or opportunities in finding additional officers? Chief said he continues to look, and we are listed as a department who is looking to hire. The issue

with retired officers or close to retirement, is they do not want the shift work any longer and with the SAFE-T act going into effect January 1, 2023, that does play a part in hiring. Chief does check with other agencies when he attends the area Police Chief meeting, but most other agencies are in the same situation as Hamel. Trustee Isringhausen said he believes will have better luck in January once the SAFE-T Act has been totally addressed.

PARK REPORT:

The trees at the dog park have all been planted and watered. It takes about 1500 gallons of water for all the trees. The Route 66 sign lettering has been completed on the other side. All the decorations at the park have been removed and put away. Life span on the new pole Christmas decorations is a very long time. Don had a lot of positive feedback on the new light decorations. Floor machine needs to have the batteries replaced.

WATER REPORT:

One repair on Hamel Avenue, a boring company clipped an old-line service tap that was sticking up. We dug the old service tap up and then did a shut-off.

SEWER :

Manhole lining will be addressed. There is still leaking from south end of system. We have raw sewage from the truck stop as well as the rest areas. The gases are damaging the concrete. The last flow meter is finally in. Permits are every 5 years. No violations. Still no response from inspection from 5 months ago.

STREETS/STORM WATER REPORT:

All equipment, plows and vehicles are ready for the snow. A lot of new Christmas pole lights had the same brackets as the old lights. Installation of the lights went well, no issues at all. We have received our permit from IDOT for the parking lot to the north of the hall. Continuing ditching and culverts on the north end of the town. There was a driveway issue that came up, a resident poured over the storm drain to add an additional parking pad. Don will get a letter generated and run it by Phil to notify the resident this needs to be fixed at their expense. The resident only called in a locate for this location for landscaping, nothing about adding an additional parking pad or addition to his driveway. The area is barricaded at this point to make sure no one drives over this; it will not hold the weight of a vehicle. This is on Corral Ave. The hydro-truck was taken to EJ Equipment for repairs, this will be about \$6,500, this will be taken from water and sewer.

Trustee Goebel passed on information regarding the "simple-seven" new insurance rulings about items on policies. Basically, need to check the policy and each VIN on all vehicles to make sure they are correct. This new law allows insurance agency to not pay on a claim if there are clerical errors with vehicles and policies. Don confirmed and will check the Debbie regarding all VIN's, and insurance cards carried in each vehicle.

TOURISM:

The parking lot project will begin in May, this will help with parking for the new Route 66 sign.

ORDINANCE:

No report.

FINANCE:

Trustee Goebel went over the information regarding the cd's with CNB Bank & Trust, along with information for moving of all the Village of Hamel funds to the Bank of Hillsboro. The cd's would be on a rotating scale, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months, with CNB Bank & Trust. There are only three accounts we can pull money from for cd's: general, water and sewer. Stagger the cd's is the best route to get the best return in a years' time. The Bank of Hillsboro has a public funds plus account, which is a checking account for municipalities. With the interest we would get from all the other accounts will greatly surpass the amount we receive annually from Associated Bank. We are getting next to nothing in interest from Associated Bank. There was a sub-finance meeting with Justin, Jennifer, Donny, and Debbie. It was agreed this will be a load of work for Jen and Debbie to get all the accounts moved but it can be done. The return will be significant just in interest alone. Jen and Debbie will start the process on the cd's first and then moving funds to Bank of Hillsboro if Ordinance 22-009 is approved/passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bob Massa explained the Amendment #1 to the contract regarding the water system improvements. The Environmental Review, the Osage Nation, IDNR State Historical Preservation Office and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have all requested a phase 1 archaeological review of the project area. The USACE has also required permitting for crossing the mapped wetlands. Bob said these requirements must be met before they give approval. This is for the Hoxey project. Motion to approve, Amendment #1 to increase cost from \$5,000 to \$7,000 to the engineer was made by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Goebel, Behrhorst. Motion carried. (5-0).

Bob gave an update on the sidewalks project. IDOT is looking at this regarding the side roads and how the sidewalks will impact the intersections. This project was not about a street project, which IDOT is trying to make it into. This is for sidewalks, with current street conditions, and no improvements will be made to any intersections and or streets. A response was sent back to IDOT regarding this, and Bob will advise everyone once he has received word back from IDOT and what the next meeting/step will be.

Trustee Goebel said he would investigate a bridge/construction loan with CNB for the sidewalks and then it would be paid for all at once and then the funds from the BD #2 could be used to pay back the loan. He will keep the Board apprised of everything. Mayor advised there is still \$100,000 from the DCEO Funds from the State. He will look into this again.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to pass **RESOLUTION 22-23: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HOXEY DRIVE SUBDIVISION FINAL PLAT**, made by Trustee Goebel, and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Goebel, Behrhorst. Motion carried (5-0).

Motion to pass **RESOLUTION 22-24: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE KLENKE SUBDIVISION FINAL PLAT**, made by Trustee Goebel, and seconded by Trustee Isringhausen. Roll call: Behrhorst, Goebel, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer. Motion carried. (5-0). This is being divided for estate purposes.

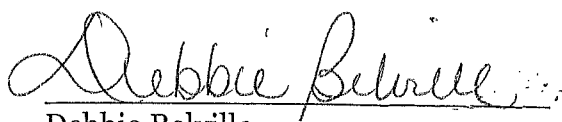
Motion to pass **ORDINANCE 22-009: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 2, SECTION 95 (F) OF THE HAMEL REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCE REGARDING APPROVED PLACES OF DEPOSIT FOR HAMEL CORPORATE FUNDS**, made by Trustee Recer, and seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Goebel, Behrhorst. Motion carried. (5-0).


Mayor advised last item on the agenda is the consideration to increase the number of available liquor license. This is open for discussion only not an action item. Trustee Isringhausen stated he has concerns regarding the size of our Village and adding more gaming and wondered if in any of the Trustees have talked with any residents about this. Trustee Goebel said he has talk with some residents on the street and the sentiment has not changed since we added the DK's Slots liquor license. It has stayed the same, they do not wish to see any more gaming introduced to Hamel. Trustee Recer said he has received the same feedback on his end of town as well. Trustee Goebel said he is very happy that we have an ordinance in our code that does not allow for open licenses and that the Board as a say in how many open licenses we carry. Trustee Goebel also said when DK's Slots was approved, we told the gaming representative at that time this the would be the last one, per all the Trustees input. In March, we passed the increase of the gaming machine fee hoping it would curb any other machines being added due to the cost. Trustee Goebel asked if we would want to look at a non-binding referendum to be placed on the ballot, to see if the citizens had reconsidered their views. Mayor advised it is too late to add to this next election. Trustee Isringhausen brought up doing a survey of some sort that would only be to the residents of Hamel. Karen Luster inquired how the residents are being asked about this gaming question. If they are told who is looking into this, their name or business name? Or is this a blanket question? Trustee Isringhausen said no names are used; this is more of a general question. During the comprehensive plan nothing was discussed about gaming. Trustee Behrhorst said we could consider doing another survey to gage questions about the gaming along with new park issues. Trustee Goebel made a motion to postpone the discussion indefinitely. Karen Luster then interjected; should there not be a time limit on this? Mayor called Order at that time. Trustee Behrhorst seconded the motion after giving a brief explanation to Karen Luster what a postpone indefinitely is opposed to a time limit. Roll call: Otrembiak, Recer, Goebel, Isringhausen, Behrhorst. Motion carried. (5-0).

Trustee Behrhorst and Trustee Recer will begin a survey process and make additions.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Trustee Isringhausen. All in favor, all ayes.
Time out 7:41 pm.

Approved at the Village of Hamel Board Meeting January 10, 2023.


Debbie Belville
Village Clerk


Larry Bloemker
Village President/Mayor