

**MINUTES**  
**VILLAGE OF HAMEL BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday May 9, 2023**  
**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 Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer,  
Absent: none

**PRESENT:**

Mayor: Larry Bloemker  
Village Clerk: Debbie Belville  
Village Treasurer: Jennifer Gehner  
Village Attorney: Phil Lading  
Village Engineer: Bob Massa  
Public Works Director: Don Grimm  
Chief of Police: Alan Winslow

Presentation by Mayor Bloemker, swearing in re-elected Clerk, Debbie Belville, and gave the oath of office.

Mayor Bloemker said he has seen the agenda and he will forgo any kind of final report. He thanked everyone and exited the meeting.

Clerk Belville then swore in Justin Gerstner, as Mayor of Hamel, oath of office was given. The re-elected Trustees, Justin Goebel, Randy Otrembiak, and Dwyann Isringhausen were also sworn in, and oath of office was given.

Mayor Gerstner proceeded to take over the Village of Hamel Board meeting.

**GUESTS:**

Justin Gerstner- Mayor Elect  
Ashley Gerstner, Calvin Gerstner, Carson Gerstner  
Troy Belville  
Raymie Isringhausen  
Greg Withers  
Daneen Killion  
Nathan Hutson (MCC)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Regular monthly bills, treasurer report, minutes from April 4, 2023, minutes from special board meeting April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Motion to approve consent agenda was made by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0)

**MAYOR REPORT:**

Mayor Gerstner requested Bob Massa give an update on the sidewalk project. There has been a turnover in IDOT staffing, the new and current staff are looking at this project as a street project and not sidewalks. Bob is working with different departments trying to get the delays and questions resolved. The DCEO money along with BD #2 money will be used for this sidewalk project. Trustee Goebel stated there is BD #2 money that has accumulated that needs to be paid back to the general fund for things the Village has already paid for. The waste hauling contract ends in June. Mayor has talked with Phil; Village Attorney and we are able to look at an extension of a contract instead of going out for a bid or looking for other haulers. Mayor Gerstner is in contact with the GM of Republic, and they are trying to get a custom pickup contract for the Village. The focus is to maintain yard waste and recycle but to find a schedule that will not overflow the community if there are schedule changes. Once there is a set contract and details are worked out, we will do a newsletter/ mailing to advise the community. Lastly, the dialer that was previously discussed, Daneen stated this is a single form that we will use. She explained we will need to send it out to the community. Each resident must fill out an updated contact sheet and check a "OPT-IN" box that will allow us to use their phone contact to load them into the dialer system. These calls will display the Village of Hamel. We must have this form from each resident, we cannot simply add people without their permission.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Chief Winslow reported, Officer Duke attended a 40-hour ILEAS "Less Than Lethal Munitions Instructor Training". Officer Duke is working towards obtaining an instructor's certificate that will enable him to provide the Village with the training for in-house, mandated "hands on" training. Officer Ahlmeyer attended a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team Training, this will provide her with the authority to evaluate and admit persons experiencing mental health issues, for clinical help. Chief Winslow completed a 4-hour session on the ILEAS NRRO program which will eventually become part of the Regional Critical Incident plan. Chief attended a meeting with U.S. Attorney's office for an update on Madison County's Domestic violence policies. The Chief said there have been some difficulties with the training boards portal, but things are finally on track. He will do his best to meet the completion target date of May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Ahlmeyer is working on a significant fraud case. She is working extremely hard to get the money back for the victim, and Chief commended her on how this case is being handled. The Chief is working to get the department into compliance with ILEA and NIMS. He would like to meet with the safety committee regarding hiring issues, sometime this month. Trustee Goebel advised we do not have a "safety committee," however the Chief can get with Debbie and get a date scheduled with the "personnel committee." The Chief attended the Doggie Easter Egg Hunt, he said it was very entertaining and cold! He had a meeting with numerous local Chiefs, Sheriff's, US Attorney and the SILEC Director to reintroduce himself to everyone. He received great reviews from the Madison County Sheriff's Department regarding the Hamel Police Officers. There is a profound respect for the Hamel Police Department and Madison County Sheriff had nothing but wonderful things to say about our Officers. Chief Winslow took the 2015 squad car to Roberts Ford for an evaluation and get a mechanical cost for getting this unit back into service. The cost to get this unit back road worthy is \$2300-\$2400. This will be listed on the June agenda. The board asked the Chief to get the unit back to Roberts for the repairs and this will be on the June agenda. The Chief is gathering information regarding psych evaluation for hiring. Chief has identified a few issues regarding our in-house training and at this time we are not able to hire people since we have no training program set up, such as an FTO (field training officer). Chief Winslow would like to send Officer Ahlmeyer to FTO training so we have in-house training and that will help once we do get new officers. This training would be one full week.

**PARK REPORT:**

Motion to approve payment to Mark Stunkel Trucking, Inc. in the amount of \$7,749.94 made by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Gorzny. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Grozny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0). This was for the hauling and dumping of the dirt for the property on Hamel Avenue.

Don will have Kamadski come out to scrap, move, and level the property and we will have it reseeded once the leveling is completed. Trustee Isringhausen asked what needs to be done about declaring this a park. Attorney Lading will have an ordinance drawn up declaring this a park, and we can then start the process of choosing a name. All agreed to get input from the community regarding a name. We will look at making a mailer with suggestions or ask for name recommendations to be emailed to the office. Mayor Gerstner said he would like to have the planning committee investigate this also for some additional help.

The restrooms are open for the season, the picnic table that was damaged by the basketball court has been replaced.

Don asked about getting CPR training for public works. The Mayor will keep him abreast of the CPR training that the fire department is going to have. The Mayor said all Board members are welcome to take this training as well.

**WATER REPORT:**

The lead line service report has been completed. This is the first year we must complete this including every address and every homeowner that we have is in the system. Next year's report will be the major report, this will be all addresses and what comes from the meter into the house. Trihalomethane samples were collected this month, this test is for things left over in the water after chemically treated. This report was good. CCR report goes out each year, Donny and Daneen are still working on this, it will go out next month. The cross-connection control survey will go out this month also. There was a water leak at 140 and Staunton Road, at the Northeast Central interconnection. This is buried in 3 feet of rock. The area was dug up and listening device were used as well. No leak could be found, but the field is still wet. This will continue to be worked on.

Bob Massa to give an update on the Hoxey water line project. This is the EPA project; it will take 4-6 weeks to get plans done for the EPA. It will be June-July before we know how the scoring is done for the funding. Bob and Don will contact all the residents on Hoxey during the next few weeks. To confirm, Bob stated we qualify for the funding, however, we have not been selected yet. He is hoping to receive that selection notification while our permit is still valid. If not, we will just need to resubmit the permit.

The school expansion was discussed, regarding the water and sewer line locations. With the change from the original plan there may need to be some changes. The new expansion is toward the park, where the employee car park is and the log cabin.

**SEWER:**

There were 40 grass carp picked up for the sewer plant. There has been heavy bacteria dosing at the plant. There is a lot of cleanups being done at the plant and scrap has been hauled off. Don is waiting to hear back from the solar company regarding solar being put in.

Don is getting updated quotes for the manhole linings close to Loves. There are high solids, very acidic waste coming from Loves' and the rest area. Don asked if the cost of getting these manholes lined could come from the Business District #1 Fund? They believe, yes it can.

**STREETS/STORM WATER REPORT:**

The repairs to the concrete pads by the garage doors here at the hall will be done by the end of the month. The mosquito fogger has been certified. The MFT (motor fuel tax) 2022 expenditures are completed, and the 2023 MFT estimates need to be approved. Trustee

Goebel made a motion to approve **Resolution 23-19: 2023-2024 MFT Estimated cost**, seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0). The 2023 estimate will be concrete repairs, oil and chipping every street. Trotter drive and fourth street bad area will need to be addressed. There will be some milling that needs to be done this year. The concrete streets will all be crack sealed. The banners that are put up every year are getting rough, along with the brackets. He will get pricing on some of these to be replaced.

New committee appointments need to be made, Mayor will get with Debbie to get current committee members and make any adjustments.

**TOURISM:**

Nothing to report.

**ORDINANCE:**

Nothing to report.

**FINANCE:**

Trustee Goebel said he will save this for next month!

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion to approve PEP payment #3, in the amount of \$ 16,379.59 made by Trustee Gorzny and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer. Motion carried. (5-0).

Motion to approve Grandview Farms easement payment for 2023 in the amount of \$353.00 made by Trustee Isringhausen and seconded by Trustee Gorzny. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

Motion to accept Notice of State Award DCEO made by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Gorzny. Roll call: Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer. Motion carried. (5-0). With regards to the DCEO account, we will need to open a new account with the Bank of Hillsboro.

Request by Trustee Gorzny to move Ordinance 23-006 and Resolution 23-20 to the end new business. He would like to see the re-appointment Resolutions done first, since he believes there will be further discussions regarding this ordinance and resolution. If any public would like to leave after the appointments, it would accommodate them. All the board members agreed with this.

**Resolution 23-8: Re-appointment of Scott Hanson, Zoning Administrator.** Motion to approve by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Gorzny. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

**Resolution 23-9: Re-appointment of Jennifer M. Gehner, Treasurer.** Motion to approve by Trustee Recer seconded by Trustee Isringhausen. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

**Resolution 23-10: Re-appointment of Don Grimm, Superintendent of Water, Sewer & Streets.** Motion to approve by Trustee Recer and seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

**Resolution 23-11: Re-appointment of Debbie Belville, Collector.** Motion to approve by Trustee Isringhausen and seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

**Resolution 23-12: Re-appointment of Philip Lading, Village Attorney.** Motion to approve by Trustee Isringhausen and seconded by Trustee Gorzny. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

**Resolution 23-13: Re-appointment of Bob Massa of Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C., Engineer for the Village of Hamel.** Motion to approve by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Gorzny. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0)

**Resolution 23-14: A Resolution appointing Gregory Withers to the position of Village Trustee for the Village of Hamel, Illinois.** Motion to approve by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0). Clerk Belville swore in Mr. Withers and gave him the oath of office.

**Resolution 23-15: Re-appointment of Sara Schwarz, Planning Commission Board Member.** Motion to approve by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried. (6-0).

**Resolution 23-16: Re-appointment of Michael Horvath, Planning Commission Board Member.** Motion to approve by Trustee Recer and seconded by Trustee Gorzny. Roll call: Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried. (6-0).

**Resolution 23-17: Re-appointment of Janet Hooks, Planning Commission Board Member.** Motion to approve by Trustee Recer and seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll call: Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried. (6-0).

**Resolution 23-18: Appointment of Jarrod Sprinkle, Planning Commission Board Member.** Motion to approve by Trustee Gorzny and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried. (6-0).

**Resolution 23-21: Appointment of Brenton Hurst, Planning Commission Board Member.** Motion to approve by Trustee Isringhausen and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried. (6-0).

**Ordinance 23-006: An Ordinance amending chapter 1, article II of the revised code of Ordinances regarding the creation of an executive administrator position.**

Mayor Gerstner opened the floor for discussion. Trustee Gorzny said he had spoken with a few other Board Members, and since this ordinance and the laptop surplus is tied together, he believes there needs to be more discussion about this position. The position has value, it will limit our touch points with Sandberg Phoenix or Scott Hanson. They all bill by the minute, (crowd laughs) and having someone in this position. If you live here, you are going to come to the Village for help. Trustee Goebel would like to see phone prompts if someone calls in for police, public works, mayor, clerk, and for zoning or ordinance. That way the question is sent to the correct person or department.

The way the ordinance is written for this position is to keep this as a fulling interpretive position. The appointee filling the position would not take a situation and just run with it or make a final decision. The appointee would present it to the Board or Mayor, and they would make the final decision. If the appointee does not know the answer to the question, the appointee would take this to the Mayor who would in turn go to Phil or Scott to ask for help. Trustee Isringhausen asked if this position has any supervisory role, response was no, there is no supervisory role with this position. Is there anything in the ordinance that removes power from the police department to enforce ordinances? No, it would still be the police department or Donny's role to take whatever situation and handle it. Every line reflects the appointee must report back to the Mayor/Board or Police or Donny. Each description states that this is an advisory nature is reported to PD or PW. This is a resource position only, we need to fill the gap for zoning questions and inquiries because the fact is the people who are here, it is not their responsibility to handle these situations or questions, it is not part of their job.

Also, in the description of the position, they would continue to do the newsletter and media. If he (appointee) does not do this, it would need to fall to others to fulfill. Trustee Goebel said he would like to see a grant calendar also, more consistent tracking of grants available and must show what grant would be linked with specific projects. Mayor Gerstner said he was research grant writers, and some get between 5-10 % of every grant. There were questions raised as to how the Board would be tracking the work being done and what this person is doing and being paid for. The appointee would have to do all the work; they would not just find available grants and then dump the information on Donny for him to take over. The position is for the appointee to do all the work from start to finish. Mayor Gerstner said we will be requesting some sort of report for zoning, planning and ordinance monthly. Trustee Goebel said it is obviously up to the Board or the Mayor if we do not use this position or see a return from the position, we would just not reappoint. We do have the finances for this position, and it will not impede the hiring of another police officer.

Trustee Isringhausen made a motion to approve ORDINANCE 23-006: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 11 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CREATION OF AN EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR POSITION, seconded by Trustee Goebel. Roll call: Withers, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (6-0).

**Resolution 23-20: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING LARRY BLOEMKER TO THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE VILLAGE OF HAMEL, ILLINOIS.**

After a brief discussion and comments regarding an incident surround this resolution there was a motion to move into executive session by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Isringhausen at 8:36 pm. Roll call: Goebel, Gorzny, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried. (6-0).

Out of executive session at 9:01 pm.

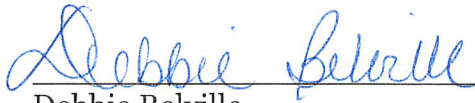
Roll call for regular session at 9:01 pm: Withers, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel.


Motion made by Trustee Recer to table **Resolution 23-20** and **Resolution 23-22**, seconded by Trustee Isringhausen. Roll call: Wither, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Gorzny, Goebel. Motion carried. (6-0).

The Clerk will post for the Special Meeting, next Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Trustee Gorzny, seconded by Trustee Recer, all in favor, all ayes. Time out 9:08 p.m.

Approved at the Village of Hamel Board Meeting June 13, 2023.

  
Debbie Belville  
Village Clerk

  
Justin Gerstner  
Village President/Mayor