

**MINUTES**  
**VILLAGE OF HAMEL BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday February 13, 2024**  
**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 Justin Gerstner at 7:00 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Trustees Present: Justin Goebel, Randy Otrembiak, Dwyann Isringhausen, Shane Recer, Greg Withers

Absent: Jerry Gorzny

**PRESENT:**

Mayor: Justin Gerstner

Village Clerk: Debbie Belville

Village Attorney: Phil Lading

Public Works Director: Don Grimm

Chief of Police: Alan Winslow

**GUESTS:**

Andrew Petrolino, Utilitra

Nathan Hutson (MCC)

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Regular monthly bills, Treasurer report, and minutes from January 9, 2024, and Special Board Meeting February 27, 2024. Motion was made to pass consent agenda by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll call: Withers, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Gerstner introduced Andrew Petrolino from Utilitra. He went over the IT services they are offering and specifics for the contract. This would be a one-year contract agreement, \$18,000. Per month it would be \$1,500 and an approximate \$4,000 startup for hardware costs. A server rack that is lockable has been recommended as well. Trustee Goebel made a motion to enter a one-year contract with Utilitra, seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll Call: Withers, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

**MAYOR REPORT:**

The Mayor went over the conversation he had about the annual payment to the City of Edwardsville regarding the ice center. The Mayor spoke with not only Edwardsville's Mayor but also with the Director of Parks/Rec. It was acknowledged that the initial support and what the support was made for had evolved into a mishap. After further discussion, it was agreed that The Village of Hamel will have an annual Village of Hamel Skate Day, which will include a 2-hour free skate time, free skating rental and free use of the amenities that are in the center as well. The Mayor said he would like to get this scheduled as soon as possible for this year, and going forward, next year 2025 try to have a schedule day during January or February. That would help with the "cabin fever" of winter and give parents, children, and all residents a break from winter and the holidays. Mayor Gerstner also met with Ameren regarding the

outages in the area. Ameren is aware of the issues, there is a 17-mile stretch of cable in the area that has some wiring that is over 100 years old. The outage should be eliminated soon, once they get all the replacements done. Ameren has commented to replacing the entire 17-mile stretch of bad wire.

The next Master Park Plan Public Meeting will be February 22, 2024, at the Community Center, starting at 6:00. He also gave the information regarding the Survey that can be completed online for this plan.

#### **POLICE REPORT:**

Chief Winslow proceeded with his monthly report. January shift coverage was at 53%, February is estimated to be 60%. Officer Jerry Buck was sworn in by Clerk Belville on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Officer Buck had 4-5 days orientation, and he was on his own after that. He is adapting very well. The Chief is continuing his interviewing process with possible candidates. He will continue to keep the Board updated. There is ongoing training throughout the department. There were two significant cases for month, both have been cleared. There has been a rash of break-ins with vehicles. This is still an ongoing investigation, but the camera program has helped with video and vehicle information. The Chief reminded everyone to tell your neighbors to lock all vehicles and as well as their houses. Chief Winslow briefly went over the 53 policies he has turned into the Board. Motion was made to pass Resolution 24-3: A RESOLUTION APPROVING CERTAIN UPDATES TO THE VILLAGE OF HAMEL POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL, was made by Trustee Goebel and seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll Call: Goebel, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried. (5-0).

#### **PARK REPORT:**

There is a tree at the community park that needs to be removed and a gum ball tree at the hall that needs to be cut back. The large tree that is behind Village Hall also needs to be addressed. The new owner of that property said he is fine with the removal, and he will pay to have the tree taken down. Trustee Goebel made a motion to have one tree removed at the community park and the topping of the gum ball tree at Village Hall not to exceed \$1,800. Trustee Recer seconded this. Roll Call: Goebel, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried (5-0). Side note, the tree behind the Village Hall will also be removed at that same time, however, the new owner of the property will pay for that.

Parking lot preparation for the new parking area at the park comes in at \$8,110 with Skidsteer. Motion made by Trustee Goebel to pass parking lot prep in the amount of \$8,110 and the use of MFT funds and seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll Call: Goebel, Otrembiak, Isringhausen, Recer, Withers. Motion carried. (5-0).

Motion made by Trustee Goebel to pass concrete for multi-use path for bike/pedestrian path in the amount of \$23,650, seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll Call: Withers, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

Rob Heepke is buying and donating a bench in memory of Wyatt Lippoldt, this donation bench will be placed on the new bike/pedestrian path.

The roof leak at the community center estimates came in at \$84,000. Don advised he can repair this by doing the same process at a much lower cost.

Don recommended buying a portable generator that would be housed on a trailer that can be moved to various locations, such as the two lift stations, the park, and Village Hall. The generator regulators we have needed to be updated to accommodate extreme frigid conditions. Jeff Helle worked with Don to get these modified.

Debbie went over the information regarding the digital park sign. After the discussion was had, we all agreed we need to have a company that will provide service, installation, and ongoing maintenance, along with a warranty. Stewart Sign is a sales company, they do not offer installation, nor any type of service agreement. The Board agreed to hold off on the

Stewart Sign proposal and investigate more on the Eberhart Sign proposal. The demonstration that was given by Eberhart Sign along with Watchfire was informative and impressive. The service agreement was discussed as was the warranty and installation process. Debbie will get with Eberhart Sign to narrow down the exact price and then email the Board with the final numbers.

**WATER REPORT:**

The lead line service report is due in April. There was a leak at the water tower, this has been totally repaired and is in working order.

**SEWER:**

After some extensive research regarding the "muffin monster" a grinder that would be used at the lift station for Loves, Don has found the maintenance and life expectancy for this unit would be more costly over the years. He is recommending pulling back on the purchase of this piece of equipment, and continuing to use the basket system which is in use now. Don is requesting approval for two additional pumps for the Loves lift station. This would come out of BD #1. Motion to approve purchase of two (2) spare pumps for Loves lift station not to exceed 23,000. Made by Trustee Goebel and second by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll Call: Withers, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

**STREETS/STORM WATER REPORT:**

Looking into the crack sealing that will be needed for MFT.

**TOURISM:**

June 1, 2024, will be the First Annual Hamel Route 66 Car & Bike show. We are working on sponsorship levels, letters for the Hamel businesses, and other details. Gateway Bronco attended the Tourism Committee meeting and they committed to being part of the event. There will be further information at the next Board Meeting. Chief Winslow came up with new names for the sponsorship tiers; Nitrous, Super Charger, and Turbo Charger. Route 66 Creamery has committed to being our first Nitrous sponsor. Important things are coming together, we will keep the Board informed of our next steps.

**PERSONNEL:****FINANCE:**

Trustee Goebel stated we are at the three-quarters mark, everything is good. At the end of June when the business district #1 is closed out the balance will be rolled into the general fund. MEPRD approved the \$10,000 reimbursement check, we should have that check within the month.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mayor Gerstner went over the public meeting that was held at 6:30 this evening regarding the proposed amended redevelopment plan for the business district. There were no residents that came to the public meeting.

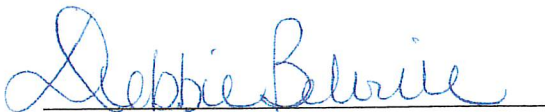
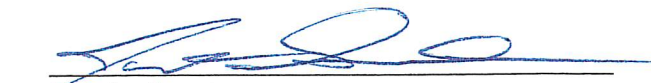
**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion made by Trustee Isringhausen to pass **Ordinance 24-002: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ZONING HEARING OFFICER TO APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL USE SUBMITTED PERMIT BY BANK OF HILLSBORO**, seconded by Trustee Otrembiak. Roll Call: Withers, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak. Motion carried. (4-0).

Motion made by Trustee Goebel to pass **Ordinance 24-4: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF REIMBURSABLE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT COSTS INCURRED BY LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS AND COUNTRY STORES, INC. PURSUANT TO THE HAMEL LOVES BUSINESS DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND FIRST AMENDMENT TO BUSINESS DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT ( FINAL PAYMENT)**, seconded by Trustee Recer. Roll Call: Withers, Recer, Isringhausen, Otrembiak, Goebel. Motion carried. (5-0).

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Trustee Recer seconded by Trustee Withers all in favor, all ayes. Time out 8:18 p.m.

Approved at the Village of Hamel Board Meeting March 12, 2024.

  
Debbie Belville  
Village Clerk  
Justin Gerstner  
Village President/Mayor