

# VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2021

## CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Heather McArty called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Cathi Fritz	X		Caroline Darr – Int. EMS Coordinator
Bob Parr	X		Dustin Henderson – Supt. Of Public Works
Doit Roberts	X		Janet Hambright – Treasurer
Ferrell Stroh	X		Lori Fields – EMS Billing
Robert Wright	X		

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mayor McArty asked for a motion to approve the November 15, 2021, regular meeting and executive session minutes.

Ferrell Stroh made a motion to approve the November 15, 2021, regular meeting and executive minutes with a second from Bob Parr.

	Cathi Fritz	Bob Parr	Doit Roberts	Ferrell Stroh	Robert Wright
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
Nays					
Absent					

Motion Carried

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$ 41,508.83	<b>POLICE</b>	\$ 4,468.59
<b>ROADS/BRIDGES</b>	\$ 540.00	<b>EMERGENCY RESCUE</b>	\$ 3,391.91
<b>TIF 1</b>	\$ 48,537.12	<b>NON-HOME RULE</b>	\$ 36,917.92
<b>TIF 2</b>	\$ 12,076.15		

Mayor McArty asked for a motion to approve the monthly bills.

Bob Parr made a motion to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Ferrell Stroh.

	Cathi Fritz	Bob Parr	Doit Roberts	Ferrell Stroh	Robert Wright
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
Nays					
Absent					

Motion Carried

## GUESTS

Emily Poynter Jenkins from Farnsworth Engineering introduced herself as she will be working with the Village with possible future projects.

## **VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

Mayor McArty reported that the office has been issuing liquor licenses and garbage permits. A tree was damaged out at the park, and a letter and invoice for damages were sent to the resident's home. The Village also held its annual Christmas light contest. Gift cards to local businesses were provided to the winners. D. Roberts also voiced concerns regarding the picnic table next to the playground, where it seems like the coating has been eaten away. Dustin stated he would look into this.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Dustin Henderson reported the sidewalk project had been completed. Once the ground settles, backfill will be brought in in the spring, and final grading and seeding will finish up the project. B. Parr suggested holding money back until the whole project is completed. The concrete project around the village hall will be completed in the spring.

R. Wright told the board he didn't realize how bad the condition of the white truck's bed was, but the frame is in good shape. D. Henderson stated he would bring back quotes on what a new bed would cost. He also said the truck was not needed for the winter and the department needed to start thinking of a plan to replace vehicles.

Steve Wendell's last day is December 31, and Mayor McArty stated he had served the Village for 47 years. Per Steve's wishes, they will not be holding an open house but will be providing him with a gift from the Village. The board hoped that Steve would be willing to help out over the summer months.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Mayor McArty reported that Chief Soderstrom provided the following report.

The department has been conducting foot patrols and addressing anything the schools need. There have been some construction-related traffic issues at OGS, but a temporary fix is getting things worked out. The F150 tires will need to be replaced by its next service. He will be getting quotes and submitting them to the board. All department stuff has been moved out of the old police office and turned over to the Historical Society. The garage has been cleaned out, and all three vehicles can fit inside with no issues.

## **EMERGENCY RESCUE REPORT**

Lori Fields provided an update on billing and stated the VA still owes. Still, payments have been coming in. She explained they had a phone call with the VA, and they found loopholes within their software, and she has been working on a workaround.

Caroline Darr reported hospitals have been calling the department directly with ALS hospital transfers. She thanked the board for this approval as it has created a renewed spirit with crew members and is moving the service in the right direction.

The department received \$506.33 from the American Rescue Act to be used toward equipment needs. They have also applied for a purchase of a second Stair Chair through the IDPH EMS Assistance Grant. The cost of the chair is \$3,650 and would replace the one in unit 4. They are still waiting to hear back from the Cadle Foundation, and the AEDs applied for several months ago.

## **AMBULANCE PURCHASE**

Caroline Darr reported issues with a motor in one of the units to the board. To replace the engine, it would be around \$30,000. Currently, not all the parts are available for rebuild, and it would cause the unit to be down and not available for 6+ months. The purchase of a new unit would cost around \$130-150,000. She has located a used unit in California and one in New Jersey. The New Jersey dealer may be interested in a trade-in to help decrease the cost. Still, the California deal was not interested in a trade-in.

The board asked what exactly are the needs of the department. C. Darr stated she would like to trade two units in for a unit that would be smaller in size. This would allow for better gas mileage, all staff would be able to drive the unit, and the smaller size is easier to maneuver in the wind and bad weather.

There was discussion on the department borrowing the money from the Village and making payments. Janet Hambright stated this is an option, but she would not recommend pulling for the general fund. Mayor McArty said funds are available to draw from if the board felt this would be an option.

C. Darr will bring back to the board different options with buying used vs. new and with trading in or selling units. Both C. Fritz and R. Wright voiced their opinion of looking at a new unit, so the department is done dealing with issues, and a new unit would be under warranty.

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## **RADAR SIGNS**

Mayor McArty shared information from R. Soderstrom and his thoughts on purchasing the radar signs. He feels this is an unnecessary tool. The department has completed several studies that provided the main road averages 29.5 mph. He feels the need for funds on body cameras and two new computers is more needed at this time.

Cathy recommends the board purchase of 2 signs in the school zones crosswalk. The company's data shows that 80% of vehicles will slow down if made aware of speed. Data is provided via Wi-Fi to the department the number of cars, the average speed and what time of day could be issues, and where additional patrol might be needed. The units come with a 2-year warranty, and data is saved for one year. They are solar-powered with a battery backup if there is the limited sun. She wasn't sure if COVID funds could be used for equipment as kids' safety should be considered most important.

F. Strol voiced his concerns about this purchase. The department faces a lot of unknowns with mandates that are required of the department from both state and federal levels. No one can predict the future, and yes, they would be nice, but he felt the money needed to be used for these mandates.

B. Parr asked if Cathi could get names from other towns that have this equipment and give them a call to see their thoughts on the equipment. He also stated one unit could be purchased, and another one could be bought at a later date.

R. Wright stated he is surprised the Village doesn't have these units already. Just one kid being in the road at the wrong time is worth the money.

D. Roberts is in favor of the purchase as you can't put money on life.

Mayor McArty asked for the price of the signs. C. Fritz reported a unit is \$4585. With the purchase of two, there is a 5% discount. She also stated that the Village had received the COVID relief funds. The funds could be used for these signs. This would not impede the department budget for the equipment needed. With the purchase of two units, there would be a %% discount. In relief, funds can be used in funds. Should not impede in the equipment needed.

Bob Parr made a motion to purchase two units based on Cathi Fritz calling 3 of the former customers that have these signs seconded by Robert Wright.

	Cathi Fritz	Bob Parr	Doit Roberts	Ferrell Stroh	Robert Wright
Yes	X	X	X		X
Nays				X	
Absent					

Motion Carried

### TRUSTEE OPENING

Mayor McArty reported she received a letter of resignation on December 11, 2021, from Jason Elliot. The IML says the mayor has 60 days to appoint someone for the board to approve. If anyone is interested, they need to contact Mayor McArty.

### ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 pm, Robert Wright made a motion to adjourn with a second from Cathi Fritz.

Respectfully submitted,

*Connie Young*

Connie M. Young, Clerk

Approved *1/18/22*