

Village of Holiday Hills Board Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

President French called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members present: President Lou French, Trustees Terri Beaudoin, Jeff Giles, Tammy Gillcrist, Lisa Maier, Cheryl Thompson

Board Members absent: Trustee Rich Young

Staff Present: Interim Chief of Police Jeff Caldwell, Clerk Maura Kirchner, Clerk's Aide Lesley Tennesen

Also in attendance: Village Attorney Jim Kelly

President French addressed the Board and Public in attendance and asked everyone to be respectful.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Lou French)

Motion to appoint Lesley Tennesen as Village Clerk effective March 1, 2022

President French asked for a motion

Motion: Giles

Second: Thompson

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Oath of Office for Lesley Tennesen

President French administered the Oath of Office to Lesley Tennesen

Motion to appoint Jeff Caldwell as Police Chief

President French asked for a motion

Motion: Thompson

Second: Gillcrist

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Oath of Office for Jeff Caldwell

President French administered the Oath of Office for Jeff Caldwell

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Motion to appoint William Copp as Police Officer

President French asked for a motion

Motion: Giles

Second: Maier

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Oath of Office for William Copp

Officer Copp was absent. The Oath was administered this morning.

Motion to appoint Larry Daudelin as Director of Village Maintenance

This was tabled. Mr Daudelin was not able to attend this meeting.

Oath of Office for Larry Daudelin

Tabled

Motion to contract a consultant for Road Grants

Motion: Thompson

Second: Maier

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Discuss grant funding for sewers

Attorney Kelly spoke and said the sanitary district, Northern Moraine Water Reclamation District (NMWRD), has voted to start Phase 1 of the project. Although prices have gone up, NMWRD will use \$7 Million of their funds to begin. President French added that grants are becoming available and the Village is working on those grants.

Discuss water company strategies

President French has spoken to Village Attorney Kelly about the large increase in the water bills. President French has also contacted the County and relayed that anyone can investigate putting in a private well. However, there are regulations stating that a well must be 75 feet from nearest septic and 75 feet from the neighbor. Attorney Kelly has investigated how the increase took place. Prairie Path/Utilities Inc applied for increase back in February, 2021. Prairie Path aggregated all of their companies (several/many companies under the umbrella) operating expenses. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) okayed the increase and spread it amongst all the companies.

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There are options: eminent domain or condemnation. The Village can take the company but we will need to find someone to create or set a value or cost for the water company. The village will then have to pay all the operating costs. Attorney Kelly could not find costs for just Holiday Hills. Each individual in the village can complain to the ICC either by phone or email. That address will be published on the Village website. They might do something with enough complaints. Trustee Giles then asked the attorney if he had ever seen anything like this. The attorney responded with 'not for a water company'. Trustee Thompson then spoke and said that Holiday Hills is paying for infrastructure that is elsewhere and not here in village. The attorney suggested that we each call our legislators and create complaints. Trustee Gillcrist wanted to know why all the valves are being replaced. Trustee Thompson replied that the company is bound by law to change valves every 5-7 years. Meters are to be changed every 10 years. President French believes wells could be dug and costs shared amongst neighbors.

Address Residents

President French spoke on the topic of Facebook and its intentions. It is for keeping in touch with friends, relatives and family. He said we have several pages here in the village: Residents, Community, official Village and your own. He keeps his personal page private by his choice. If there is official information, it will be shared on the official Village FB page.

Clerk's Report

Approve minutes for 01/19/2022 Board Meeting

Clerk Kirchner asked for a motion

Motion: Thompson

Second: Giles

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: Gillcrist

Motion carried

Treasurer's Report (Jennifer Haisma)

Absent

Due to Treasurer Haisma's absence, President French gave the report. President French noted that Trustee Thompson has been helping and reviewing finances and warrants. Mistakes have been made because we have new village officials. There are no hidden agendas and no secrets. The residents can ask about these documents.

Approve financial report

President French asked for a motion

Motion: Thompson

Second: Beaudoin

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Prior to the vote, Trustee Gillcrist brought up the issuance of a check to Express Washes. President French said that this was expensive and used by prior police department administration. It is no longer used.

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Approve warrant

President French asked for a motion

Motion: Maier

Second: Thompson

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

The approved warrants and financial reports will be posted on the Village website.

Building Inspector's Report (Ryan Gaudio)

No report

Absent

Village Maintenance Report (vacant)

President French spoke on snowplowing. He agrees that it was a rough start but things are going well now. He missed some phone calls early on but that is resolved. He also apologized to the Village of Island Lake on his comment that their roads were in terrible condition. Everyone's roads were like that in the middle of storm. He again said that he was sincerely sorry that he said that and has called the Mayor of Island Lake on that issue.

Police Department Report (Chief Jeff Caldwell)

Address residents

President French introduced Chief Caldwell. He said that Chief and all the officers are very professional. President French can now step back.

Chief Caldwell spoke on his accomplishments. He has been an officer for over 25 years and in many policing fields and duties. He has brought in 5 new officers, all with many years of experience. Each of them, including himself, is a highly regarded professional. They are all dedicated to this Village and will do what it takes. His goal is to change the culture and do a professional job. Chief is working on getting more training and getting better patrol coverage. He encouraged residents to call and speak with any of his

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officers. If you see something, say something! Chief is also trying to get training grants for his officers. Donations of equipment from other locations to upgrade the squad cars. One of the police officers is part-time and training before going to the Police Academy. Chief is rebuilding relationships with nearby towns. He and his officers have cleaned up the other side/Police Department side of the Village building. Each of the officers came in on their own time to assist. Trustee Giles asked about anonymous emailing to police. Chief responded with 'not yet'. He said that there are lots of ring doorbells and those can be a huge asset to solving any issues. President French then spoke and reiterated that he had not met any of officers including Chief before the initial interview. He trusts Chief and all his officers.

President French then went on to say that just because there aren't agenda items, the Board is working hard and getting things accomplished.

Standing Committees

Buildings and Grounds (Jeffrey Giles)

Trustee Giles reported that he can get paint for the Police Department.

Community Relations (Teresa Beaudoin)

Trustee Beaudoin doesn't see many kids out and about, probably because it's winter. She would like to have a good approximate count for the Easter Parade. Agreed to figure about 100 kids. There will be a parade with Golf Carts and Easter Bunny, starting at Noon. Everyone is invited to decorate Golf Cards and join parade. All streets will be covered and goodies will be passed out.

Environmental (Lisa Maier)

No report

Finance (Cheryl Thompson)

No report

Planning and Development (Rich Young)

No report

Absent

Village Codes (Tammy Gillcrist)

No report

Old Business

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No Old Business

New Business

Trustee Gillcrist requests a new vacuum cleaner that also mops. President French will check into.

Public Comment

Kathy Andrews, 2605 Tower, said she has gone through several months of warrants and there are bills that have not been discussed. She declined to elaborate.

A resident suggested that anyone seeking a well should visit the county and get all the rules and do some investigation as to costs and payback.

A resident spoke on the water issue. This long time resident that was here when the village did look into taking over the water company long ago. This would have been operating as a small company and expensive.

An anonymous Christmas thank you was read for a donation to the North Pole activities. Included in the comment was thank you for tree cleanup from the September, 2021 windstorm.

Executive Session (personnel)

Motion to enter Closed Session for personnel matters pursuant to 5 IICS 120/2 (C)(1) at 8:09pm

Motion: Thompson

Second: Gillcrist

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Discussed personnel

Motion to return to Regular Session

Motion: Beaudoin

Second: Giles

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Return to Regular Session at 8:15p.m

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Presidents report (cont.)

Request approval to increase wages of police officers by \$1.50 per hour

Retroactive to 01/1/2022

President French asked for a motion to increase wages

Motion: Gillcrist

Second: Giles

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Request approval to increase police chief wage to \$27 per hour

Retroactive to 01/1/2022

President French asked for a motion to increase police chief wage

Motion: Maier

Second: Giles

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Gillcrist, Maier, Thompson

Nays: none

Absent: Young

Abstain: none

Motion carried

Adjournment

President French asked for a motion to adjourn

Motion: Gillcrist

Second: Giles

Ayes: Beaudoin, Giles, Maier, Gillcrist Thompson

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Young

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: March 16, 2022

Submitted by Lesley Tennessen, Clerk's Aide _____