

APPROVED MINUTES
VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES; SPECIAL MEETING
Antioch Community High School, AUDITORIUM: 1133 Main Street, Antioch, IL
October 13, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the October 13, 2010 special meeting before the Board of Trustees to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Antioch Community High School Auditorium: 1133 Main Street, Antioch, Illinois.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hanson and the Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Pierce, Poulos, Sakas, Crosby, Wolczyk and Jozwiak. Also present were Mayor Hanson, Administrator Keim, Attorney Long and Clerk Rowe.

IV. MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Hanson asked everyone to please turn cell phones off and discussed the reconvened meeting to and place and time to allow as many members of the public an opportunity to comment on this issue. He said that we will allow approximately 90 minutes for public comment and then go into closed session where the Board will discuss the matters privately. He said when the Board returns to the open meeting action may be taken if deemed appropriate and no further public comment would be taken at that time. He said that during the public comment, each speaker would be limited to three minutes so that we may hear from as many people as possible who are here to speak. Mayor Hanson said that on the advice of council, the Board will not respond to the comments and it will help ensure that the maximum number of those could be heard. Mayor Hanson said that issue we are here to discuss having nothing to do with personality or politics and we do not need to hear testimonials about how great Jim Foerster is; we know that he has worked for the Antioch Police Department for over 26 years and he has many friends in both the Village and the Township. He said the Board is aware that the States Attorney decided not to charge him with any crime and that he has passed the fitness for duty examination and he asked those present to not comment on these matters. Mayor Hanson said the issue the Board needs to decide on is of a HR nature and have to do with confidence in leadership and he asked those present to focus their comments on those topics and out of respect for all parties and residents present tonight, he asked that audience members refrain from booing and cheering during the comment period. Mayor Hanson said this is a serious matter and the Board will be considering the issues following much investigation and thought and whatever is decided will be a product of thoughtful consideration and a decision based on facts and not personalities.

V. CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Of the approximate 250 people in attendance, 12 addressed the Board and spoke highly of Chief Foerster's character, professionalism and the amount of respect that he has in the community and from his peers and staff. Rudy Magna, attorney for Chief Foerster, also addressed the Board and said that tonight the Board has a chance to respond to the citizens and that he hoped the decision would be to put Chief Foerster back to work. Two persons, who witnessed the event that occurred, also addressed the board with their concerns regarding that evening.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Pierce moved, seconded by Trustee Sakas for the Mayor and Board of Trustees to go into executive session at 8:19 p.m. to discuss personnel and pending or threatened litigation. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Pierce, Poulos, Sakas, Crosby, Wolczyk and Jozwiak.

NO: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Poulos moved, seconded by Trustee Crosby for the Mayor and Board of Trustees to return from executive session to the open meeting at 10:04 p.m. with **action to be taken.**

Mayor Hanson said that he felt that he and Jim Forester were working well together and that he only asked to be informed of issues that may be of a concern. He then read his removal statement and outlined eleven reasons to remove James Forester as the Antioch Police Chief and he ask the Board for a motion and second to confirm the removal.

Trustee Wolczyk moved, seconded by Trustee Jozwiak to confirm the removal of James Forester as Antioch Police Chief.

Trustee Crosby said he was appreciative of the respectful comments and he enjoyed his role as the Public Safety liaison. He said that Jim Foerster has great passion, dedication, skills and knowledge in his department, and he considered him a friend, however he made a huge mistake that evening. Trustee Poulos said that although the votes may be different, the Board was in agreement that James

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Forester's actions were disrespectful and not proper. Trustee Pierce thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said that he believed there could have been a different conclusion if the majority of the Board desired.

Roll Call Vote – There being no further discussion and upon roll call, the vote was:
YES: 4: Sakas, Crosby, Wolczyk and Jozwiak.
NO: 2: Pierce and Poulos.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Trustee Sakas moved, seconded by Trustee Crosby to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candi L. Rowe, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk