

APPROVED MINUTES

VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING
Village of Antioch, Lake County, Illinois
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002
January 24, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gartner called the January 24, 2024 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:34 pm at the Antioch Municipal Building located at 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL and via Zoom.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Board of Trustee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Burman, Bluthardt, McNeill, Pierce*, Macek and Pedersen. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Acting Administrator Guttschow, Attorney Vasselli and Clerk Romine.

**indicates attendance via Zoom*

IV. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

There were no objections to Trustee Pierce attending remotely.

V. Mayoral Report

Mayor Gartner acknowledged 211 Day, and invited Mr. Quinton Snodgrass from the United Way to speak about the program. Mr. Snodgrass discussed the benefits of 211 and resources it provides to those in need. The Mayor presented him with a framed resolution.

Mayor Gartner provided an update on the Veteran's Committee, and the assistance provided by Great Lakes Construction and discussed the other projects in which they were involved. He reviewed donations made by other companies toward the memorial project.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

Attorney Vasselli read aloud the procedure for comment at public board meetings.

Mr. Paul Green, Antioch township resident, commented on the snow plowing. He said it was reassuring and comforting to know he could travel safely on the roads, and thanked Director Heimbrodt and the Public Works Department for their hard work.

Mr. Dick Schlake, Village resident, discussed snowmobiles in town disrupting his snow removal efforts. When he contacted the police, he was advised that snowmobiles are legal, and asked the Board to consider regulations on snowmobiles.

Ms. Amanda Majerowski, Village resident and member of the HOA board at Woodland Ridge, stated they have noticed yellow water. She did a quick survey in the subdivision, and found a number of residents with issues with yellow water, which seem to be sporadic. She is concerned and will be looking into the problem.

Mr. Lenyan Baragan, township resident, read aloud a public statement discussing his interactions with Mayor Gartner, Village staff and Antioch Police Department. He said he will proceed to file a civil rights lawsuit against the Village of Antioch.

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VI. Consent Agenda

Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee Pedersen, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

1. **Approval of the January 10, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.**
2. **Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Closure of Route 83 (Main Street) for the Annual Easter Parade on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 10:30am – Resolution No. 24-07**
3. **Approval of a Resolution authorizing a special event liquor license for the Village of Antioch Shamrock Shuffle on March 16, 2024, waiving all fees – Resolution No. 24-08**
4. **Approval of an Ordinance authorizing and approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Board of Education of the Antioch CCSD #34 and the Village of Antioch (Shared Use of a School resource Officer) – Ordinance No. 24-01-07**

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Burman, Bluthardt, McNeill, Pierce, Macek and Pedersen.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

VII. Regular Business

5. Consideration and approval of payment of accounts payable as prepared by staff in the amount of \$1,014,072.25 – Trustee Burman moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill, to approve payment of accounts payable in the amount of \$1,014,072.25.

Acting Administrator Guttschow reviewed the larger payments including the insurance payment for the Village's General liability insurance.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Burman, Bluthardt, McNeill, Pierce, Macek and Pedersen.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

6. Consideration and approval of a Resolution increasing the annual amount paid under the contract for prosecution of traffic violations, DUIs and ordinance violations to \$60,000 - Trustee Macek moved, seconded by Trustee Bluthardt, to approve **Resolution No. 24-09** increasing the annual amount paid under the contract for prosecution of traffic violations, DUIs and ordinance violations to \$60,000.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Burman, Bluthardt, McNeill, Pierce, Macek and Pedersen.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

7. Discussion, fact finding, and potential final action regarding the possible censure of Trustee Burman (based on the 1/10/24 Committee of the Whole Meeting) – Attorney Vasselli discussed the governing law on a censure of a Village Trustee. He read aloud the agenda action item to be clear on what is being discussed.

Trustee Pierce moved, seconded by Trustee Macek, to bring the item to the floor for the potential censure of Trustee Burman.

Trustee Macek discussed the letter previously addressed to Trustee Burman, asking for this type of behavior to stop. He discussed businesses being named on a Facebook page, and getting away from good

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government, which he believes is skewed. He believes good government is working with other government agencies and businesses. He asked everyone to stop the distractions on Facebook.

Trustee McNeill discussed her service on the Village Board, and the efforts to help Antioch thrive. Since she has been on the Board, she said Trustee Burman has been respectful toward her professionally, however, there were instances outside of the board room that may be in question. She doesn't like this discussion, but wants to move forward in a positive light.

Trustee Pedersen discussed the responsibility associated with an elected office, as being a leader in the community. She discussed the oath to uphold the laws, which includes the code of conduct. She agreed that Trustee Burman is a fantastic colleague, but the back-and-forth between another elected body has divided this community, and it needs to stop.

Attorney Vasselli discussed the code of conduct, which includes the conduct of public officials and at public meetings. He discussed the five recitals in the proposed resolution which address the code of conduct.

Trustee Pierce thanked Trustee Burman for attending the meeting. He discussed the accomplishments over the last 3 years, and her rights to speak up. He said if it was just a first amendment issue, he would be voting no, but discussed others in the community who are scared to make public comment due to Trustee Burman's actions. Trustee Pierce said she is entitled to fight her own fight, but the board cannot become more involved than they already have.

Trustee Bluthardt commented on local politics, and thinks this is a situation where good intentions and a battle of ideas has turned personal on both sides. He hopes we can move forward, and this doesn't turn into a continued request for censures of others or keep the issue at the forefront. He asked everyone to take a step back and start doing what is good for the community.

Trustee Burman addressed the accusations made about her at the last meeting, which she stated to be false. She has sent emails to the board to let them know the severity of the situation. She discussed online attacks, FOIA requests, and opinions of other residents. She said she deserves to be treated with some respect and dignity, and that is totally lacking with people on a particular social media page. She discussed obscene comments made toward her on social media. She doesn't feel that it's right that she is being bullied into resigning, which she doesn't intend to do. Trustee Burman discussed her right to privacy, and asked what her options are, believing she has a right to defend herself. She said there is never going to be a solution when we are not getting to the root of the problem. She said she was off of social media for 2 weeks, and was still attacked. Trustee Burman apologized to the board for being bombarded with messages. She further discussed campaign finances and deposits made into her campaign account.

Trustee Burman addressed the accusations made at the January 10, 2024 Board meeting, discussed the Gofundme account, and stated she never made threats toward anyone. She discussed the accusation of blocking constituents from her Facebook page, stating health issues that have come to light, and explained instances in which she would block someone from a campaign page vs. an elected officials page. She discussed the accusation of posting privileged emails, and responded that they were emails received through FOIA and public knowledge. She discussed another issue with audio, where she was sent a cease and desist letter, and said she did exactly what was requested in that letter. Trustee Burman said there were numerous statements of false facts, and she has been abused and defamed for over a year. She mentioned a censure letter from 2022 which was posted to Facebook, and discussed comments regarding the letter. Trustee Burman said she was accused of posting businesses and people's names, and she said she didn't do that. She discussed the spam in her Village email account, and emails from partisan non-profits. She has asked the Board to stay out of her personal business, and apologized to the Board for reporting them to the Attorney General previously as advised by another Trustee. Trustee Burman said she feels manipulated. She discussed the potential for a censure of another Trustee for false accusations and said she is not sure what the Board should do about that. She feels everyone needs to be held accountable.

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Mayor Gartner said right now this is the only issue before the Board, and other censures would need to be brought up at another time.

Trustee Pierce said most of what he has seen has been forwarded to him since he's blocked from Trustee Burman's accounts. He discussed the difficulty in being a Trustee, and attacks he has endured throughout his service as a Trustee.

Trustee Pierce moved, seconded by Trustee Macek, to approve **Resolution No. 24-10** censuring Trustee Petrina Burman of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Antioch, Illinois. Attorney Vasselli stated that Trustee Burman does not vote on this matter. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Bluthardt, McNeill, Pierce, Macek and Pedersen.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. Administrator's Report

Acting Administrator Guttschow advised the the Village took possession of the new Village Hall Facility on Skidmore Drive. Staff continues to work on the RFQ for an owner's rep, and they have another meeting with another government agency to understand how the process worked for them. He reported that we continue to make significant progress on the Grimm Road easements. He had a recent meeting with the architect to discuss future village hall and public works facilities. Acting Administrator Guttschow discussed snow plowing and recognized Public Works for their snow removal efforts, particularly for the wine walk event. He discussed the snowmobile ordinance, and draft ordinances have been reviewed for review by the Board.

Trustee Bluthardt asked if there are other potential uses for the Skidmore property while plans are being made.

IX. Village Clerk's Report

None.

X. Department Reports: Communications, Parks, Public Works

Communication Manager Jim Moran, discussed a visit to a child last December with Santa, media support for the wine walk this past weekend, and progress on promoting upcoming events.

Parks Director Mary Quilty provided an update on letters to Santa, and Santa at the Sawmill. She also discussed the Festival of Trees, upcoming Camp Crayon preschool open house, and the production of the Spring/Summer brochure. She provided an update on the recent wine walk, which was sponsored by Antioch Pizza. She discussed upcoming events, including the Sweetheart Dance and Hot Chocolate Walk.

Public Works Director Dennis Heimbrodt discussed the snow and ice removal operations in the past month. He discussed the proposals received for sludge hauling, which will come back to the Board in the near future for contract approval. Staff has been working on compliance with the IEPA related to lead service line replacements. He discussed the repairs to Well #9 and reduced production experienced in well #7 on Bowles Road. He plans to request proposals for an assessment of that well. Finally, he discussed the purchase of the open space items for the open space development, and an approximate savings of \$35k. Trustee Macek asked if the repairs needed to well 7 may have caused the yellow water brought up previously. Director Heimbrodt said it appears to be a production issue, where the volume coming through is less than expected. Director Heimbrodt discussed the process used to investigate water complaints. He will report back with any findings in Heron Harbor and Woodland Ridge.

XI. Trustee Reports

Trustee Burman feels a discussion is needed related to plumbing inspections. Director Garrigan responded that HR Green is being utilized for plumbing inspections at this time.

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Trustee Pierce agreed that the snow plowing crew did a fantastic job and need to be congratulated. He discussed the PUD in effect at WalMart, and their prohibition from using salt on the site. He also wants to look at what they are required to use as a part of the PUD, and change it to use the proper materials to maintain their lots. He also discussed the snow being pushed across streets and sidewalks by private properties.

Mayor Gartner wished Happy Birthday to Trustee Pedersen, and everyone sang happy birthday.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees regular meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk