

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 18, 2023

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Elliott, Scott Fegett, Cathi Fritz, Lindsey Light, Bob Parr, Matt Trimmell

OTHERS PRESENT Ron Soderstrom, Marlee McCormick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Matt Trimmell motioned to approve July 17, 2023, regular meeting minutes as presented.

Scott Fegett seconded.

	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR	TRIMMELL
YES	X	X		X	X
NAYS					
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT			X		

Motion Carried

Cathi Fritz motioned to approve July 17, 2023, executive meeting minutes as presented.

Bob Parr seconded.

	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR	TRIMMELL
YES	X	X		X	X
NAYS					
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT			X		

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bob Parr motioned to accept the bills as presented.

Matt Trimmell seconded.

	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR	TRIMMELL
YES	X	X		X	X
NAYS					
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT			X		

Motion Carried

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

VILLAGE HALL

Marlee McCormick was present to preset the updated website that will be going live soon. Payments are able to be made through the website through PayPal and the hope is the accept credit cards later. Once the new website is rolled out, Marlee will continue to work on other options to use the website and continue to grow the platform.

The purchasing ordering system is up and available for use. This system will allow managers to fill out and approve purchase requests. If an invoice is received and it matches the PO amount, it will automatically get paid.

PUBLIC WORKS

Review of Projects:

- Oakwood Park Project - Mayor Wright informed the board that the contractor for the Oakwood Park Bathroom project has backed out. The project did not require bid bonds, so the village cannot do anything to require the contractor to pay for the next highest bidder. Since there is a large difference in the amounts of the two bids, the board will have to decide if there will be a motion to accept the next highest qualified bidder. In the future, he is recommending bid bonds as a requirement.
- Southern Tire Mart - has started to pour concrete and the building is scheduled to be up in five to six weeks.
- The Box - plans to start construction in 3-4 weeks with the remainder of the received TIFF funds.
- Tullies - ran into electrical issues, which is another issue that has prolonged the project. Bob Parr took a look at the project and will update the board next month on the progress of the project. To date, very little has been accomplished in the 16 months since the property was purchased. Originally the property was purchased and was to be renovated even without TIF money, but the TIF money was to accelerate the opening of the business.
- Sidewalk to Park – Plans are to start the project on September 18th and complete it by October 13th.
- Kelly Street Bridge – There have been no updates, so the project has been considered closed, and if there is a water main break, it will be directed to the water company.
- Village sidewalks – Cathi Fritz asked if residents were able to block the sidewalk with their cars. It was stated that they are not allowed to obstruct the sidewalks in town.
- Village Growth Plan – Cathi Fritz reported that a steering committee of 5 people has begun to meet, and they will call the plan “Oakwood on the Move.” Meetings will be held at the Oakwood UM Church from 6-9 p.m., and dinner will be provided. Anyone interested in attending is free to do so.
- Scott Street Bridge – There has been a new engineer for the project, and he will be putting together a plan to make it ADA-compliant. Ideas for the project have been provided to the engineer to start from.
- Rail Trail Pavilion – Cathi Fritz will share the village board’s thoughts and ideas on what they would like to see completed.
- Fuel Storage – Caroline Darr will continue looking into the village's options. FEMA will not help with the cost but will cover the cost of a portable generator that could be used if the power is out like it was in the July 2023 storm.

POLICE

Ron Soderstrom updated the board on his monthly report. Numbers were up for the month of July. The body cameras are now working and being worn by the on-duty officers. The production of the new car is past due and the truck was scheduled to be 4-6 weeks behind. More data will be provided to the board on the speed signs. The signs have shown they are decreasing speed through town.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The department has offered positions for 2 full-time employees. Revenue should show an increase in the near future with fewer calls being directed to other agencies. The department is planning a fundraiser at the park on the Friday of the Homecoming parade. It will be a pulled pork dinner.

LEGAL

Carmon Lee has been signed on as a property management consultant. He is scheduled to do approximately 10 hours per week and his main focus will be on property issues and ordinance violations.

SUBJECTS REQUIRING ACTION/DECISION BY THE BOARD

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

Senator Faraci recognized Alex Silha and Kemper Hinchman for assisting with a fire on Oakwood Street at a resident's house. The mayor also recognized David Fritz, Tyler Finley, Robby Wright, Rylee Wright, and Wane Bugaj for their assistance in the storm cleanup efforts and for working alongside them.

TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

The Village Clerk, Connie Young swore in Jason Elliot as a trustee. Jason is filling the open slot that was left after Robert Wright was officially elected village mayor.

FIBER OPTIC NETWORK PROJECT

Mark Sheldon, VP of Governmental Relations from Campus Community Group, presented to the board the opportunity the village has to have fiber optic throughout the village. The last time he approached the board, 1 million dollars was needed to install. He explained he now has an investor willing to cover the costs, allowing them to execute their expansion plan faster at no cost to the village. All lines are run underground in a flexible tube. Ninety of the largest content subscribers are housed on a server in Champaign, which would allow for quicker access. It was explained in order to start the process, a village permit will need to be submitted to the village office. There were questions about how residents would be informed of this service and the fiber optic installation. There would be green vaults installed that would be flush with the ground. One vault will service two houses. They will utilize door hangers that will be hung on all village residents. B. Parr wanted to make sure in order to do this, they must run the lines north of the I74 interstate.

Cathi Fritz motioned to approve the permit for the installation of fiber optics within the village.

Scott Fegett seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR	TRIMMELL
YES	X	X	X		X	X
NAYS						
ABSTAIN						
ABSENT				X		

Motion Carried

OAKWOOD PARK BATHROOM PROJECT

Mayor Wright informed the board that the contractor that was approved had backed out of the project. He asked the board what the next step should be.

Cathi Fritz motioned to hold off on the bathroom project and look at it next year.

Bob Parr seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR
YES	X	X	X		X
NAYS					
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT				X	

OAKWOOD PARK BATHROOM PROJECT

Mayor Wright asked the board for approval to have 8 stumps ground and hauled off that were left from the July storm clean-up.

Cathi Fritz motioned to approve the bid from Oak Creek Outdoors, to grind and haul off tree stumps left from the July storm.

Scott Fegett seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR
YES	X	X	X		X
NAYS					
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT				X	

PUBLIC WORKS POSITION

The public works department has requested the approval of an additional full-time position. The position would be year-round and consist of road work, general labor, maintenance work, and mowing. This position would also have benefits. This would also replace one of the part-time summer positions. There were concerns since this was not budgeted and with the increased cost of benefits there needed to be more research. B. Parr stated there is a need for this position.

Bob Parr motioned to table the request for this full-time position until further research is completed.

Cathi Fritz seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR
YES	X	X	X		X
NAYS					
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT				X	

RENTAL PROPERTY ORDINANCE

Mayor Wright presented an ordinance for all rental properties within the village to the board. There has been a growth in rentals. The proposed ordinance would require a rental registration filed with the village hall. An inspection would need to be completed, and once provided, a certificate of compliance would be provided for each property that would meet all the rules and regulations set forth in the ordinance. B. Parr stated he would like to be able to read over the proposed ordinance before voting on this proposal. He also believes there needs to be input from other property owners. S. Fegett is concerned with this additional cost because he has seen what COVID has done to others and being able to pay their monthly rent. The board will have additional time to look over the proposal.

Bob Parr motioned to table to vote on the proposed rental property ordinance until further review.

Scott Fegett seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR
YES	X	X			X
NAYS			X		
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT				X	

VACANT PROPERTY ORDINANCE

Mayor Wright presented to the board an ordinance for vacant properties. This is being presented for the safety and well-being of the community as there are several abandoned houses that are starting to become inhabitable. The ordinance would require houses to be inspected for occupancy would be given. There was a question regarding snowbird residents who have gone south for more than three months. It was explained that they should come into the office and inform the police department they were leaving so their property could be watched over. These residents' property would not be considered indefinite abandonment.

Cathi Fritz motioned to approve the proposed vacant property ordinance.

Jason Elliott seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR
YES	X	X	X		
NAYS					X
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT				X	

IMRF PENSION

Mayor Wright would like to table this discussion as Lindsey Light is absent. L. Light had received the study results and was getting additional information on how it affected the village. Mayor Wright stated the study was hard to understand, and he didn't want to try to explain it to the board. L. Light is also getting a financial breakdown to present to the board. C. Fritz stated she would like a copy of the report to review. Mayor Wright stated he wanted to wait till L. Light was able to explain the study to the board. The mayor suggested it be reviewed at a future study session.

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wright asked for a motion to go into executive session.

Cathi Fritz motioned at 9:07 p.m. to go into executive session.

Jason Elliott seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR
YES	X	X	X		
NAYS					X
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT				X	

With no further business, Bob Parr motioned at 9:38 p.m. to adjourn.

Jason Elliott seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR
YES	X	X	X		
NAYS					X
ABSTAIN					
ABSENT				X	

Submitted by,



Connie Young, Clerk
 Approved 9/18/2023