

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

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

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT** Dustin Henderson, Julie Leverenz

**IMRF**

L. Light provided the board with the information she was able to gain when researching the IMRF retirement plan. Below are the key points:

- Village contribution would be 5.26%, with the current rate that is being paid of 8%
- The system is based on a calendar year, and they will honor the quoted rate through 2024
- There is a 6-month notice of rate change for budget planning purposes.
- Employees will be vested after 11 years
- Employees would be able to invest their own money to buy time for years employed by the village.
- Employees would pay into the system at 4.5%. Currently they do not pay anything.
- Better plan long-term, state-funded, and most sound systems of what is available.

C. Fritz asked if the village has to pay 20% for the buy-back time because she feels the village has already paid for this time served. She would also like to see a new cost to the village by possibly adding additional employees to the payroll. C. Fritz stated she understands the estimate cannot be precise, but it would provide a better idea before deciding. She also would like to see what other communities are paying that are equal to Oakwood. Mayor Wright stated there were no employees who were against moving into IMRF and that Oakwood was the only village in the area that was part of this retirement plan. L. Light will try to get a representative to come and answer board questions.

Resident Eric Phillips voiced his concerns regarding IMRF. Through his current job, he works a lot with retirement plans, and those that do not work directly with plans may not understand the cost and may not understand the true financial impact. He cautioned the board that the village would continue to pay into an employee's pension even after the employee leaves and does not stop after the employee's death. He looked at the website to see the average rate increase has been over several years, and claimed it typically goes up at least 3%, and down the road, the village could be paying more than the 8% it currently pays. He wants the board to think this through.

**2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC WORKS FULL-TIME POSITION/ANIMAL CONTROL**

The public works department submitted a request to hire an additional full-time employee to the department. D. Henderson stated with his participation in additional projects and additional paperwork, there is a need to fill the additional duties that he is not able to do. Mayor Wright talked with D. Henderson about the possibility of this person also doing animal control within the village. After thinking more about it, D. Henderson feels the village does not have the time needed, which could remove the individual from the projects that need to be completed. Mayor Wright stated that he has instructed Dustin to focus his time more on office/project/planning work so the fieldwork goes more efficiently and per plan. There are several projects that are pending

or equipment needs that are delayed because Dustin is tied up with fieldwork. C. Fritz asked if this was part of the budget. D. Henderson stated it was not part of his budget but stated he would give up the truck that had been ordered. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **RENTAL ORDINANCE**

There was a discussion on the rental ordinance. C. Fritz asked if the goal of this ordinance would be for maintenance or something else. She feels there are other ordinances that are enforced that will take care of what this is covering. Mayor Wright agreed that we already have the authority to enforce the building and maintenance codes in other ordinances. Much of that is restated here. The issue is not knowing who to address issues with when it comes to rentals. With rentals being maintained by a manager, the owner could be silent, and the responsibility is on the individual who owns the property. B. Parr asked if Barlett, where this ordinance came from, has the same socio-economics as Oakwood and feels what has been presented doesn't need to be so big and over-complicated. M. Trimmell agreed something needed to be done as he saw what other towns around us were dealing with. He stated it will be soon it will flow into Oakwood. S. Fegett felt the fee was too much and it would just get pushed down to the renters. He suggested possibly only having a cost if they fall out of compliance rather than an upfront fee. This would punish those not doing what is required and not punish those who are doing their job. Mayor Wright agreed and would make changes to remove the fees.

#### **LANDBANK BOARD AND FAST TRACK LEGAL SERVICES**

Mayor Wright said the Landbank board and fast track services would meet on the 19<sup>th</sup>. These fast-track services would allow the village grant funding. The board elected to be part of this initiative, and the village needs to show representation and show the village has an interest.

#### **BUDGET STATUS**

L. Light showed the FY24 budget results to date. All departments are currently within budget. In future years, the plan is to move more capital expenditures into specific sections so that the board can better see ongoing expenses. Large purchases and one-time projects affect the ability to simply see status a dollar amount over time. Revenue sources can also be shown to reflect the time periods when the revenue is expected. This is important for sources like TIF and Liquor/Gaming Licenses where the income is a couple times per year.

#### **AGENDA REQUESTS**

S. Fegett stated that a contractor approached him regarding missing the window and submitted a bid for the park bathrooms project. He wanted to make sure that when projects are out for bid, they are posted on the village website as well.

At 8:15 p.m., Cathi Fritz motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Scott Fegett. All were in favor.

At 8:32 p.m., the board came back into regular session. Having no further business, at 8:35 p.m., Bob Parr motioned to adjourn, seconded by Cathi Fritz.

Submitted by,



Connie Young, Village Clerk  
Approved 10/16/23