

VILLAGE OF ROSCOE
10631 Main Street
Roscoe, Illinois 61073
Village Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 1, 2020
6:30 PM

NOTE: PURSUANT TO SECTION §7(e)(2) OF THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT THE VILLAGE BOARD AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING REMOTELY VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE.

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT:
VILLAGEOFROSCOE.COM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Village Board meeting was called to order by President Szula on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: President Szula, Trustee Mallicoat, Plock, Keene, Petty, Dunn, and Gustafson
Absent: none

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

1. 6:35 pm: Katie Littlefield, 9842 Fantail Place, Roscoe IL She is surprised Roscoe Village is meeting virtually still since many boards across the state are meeting in person, she would like the board to consider meeting in person moving forward. Ms. Littlefield read a passionate letter in which she states her disappointment with President Szula and some members of the board with the handling of the recent mitigation orders affecting our local restaurants and bars. As a small business owner she is requesting that the President Szula and the board rescind their recent letter to the local establishments and repeal the ordinance. She asks that the Village send a letter or meet with all local restaurant owners and state that the Village will be a line of defense and not bow to the pettiness of the Winnebago County Health Department and will not enforce the current fines associated with ordinance. Ms Littlefield also addressed the Tax Levy in which she stated how the citizens of Roscoe trust a board that sells out their local businesses and know that they have their best interest at heart. She requested an email response to her statement, but did not provide an email address.

2. 6:39 pm: Scott Kanaly, Walton Road, Roscoe IL
Mr Kanaly voiced his concern and questioned why is everyone around such as S Beloit, Machesney Park, Rockton, why are those businesses open and thriving yet Roscoe is forcing the small businesses to shut down? Why do they have to suffer, as covid doesn't just stop in Roscoe. His concern is Roscoe can't fix covid and that by shutting down the businesses everyone around the area thrives while we are hurting our local businesses. He asked that the Village address his question via email at S.Kanaly@norwalkfurniture.com
3. 6:42 pm: Fati Mixha, 5951 Wainwright Ct, Roscoe IL
As a lifelong resident of Roscoe, son of the owner of Jessica's Restaurant. Mr Mixha expressed he is very disappointed and shocked with President Szula and the Roscoe Village board and the actions they have taken against the local businesses. He stated since the beginning of pandemic Governor Pritzker along with Winnebago County Health Department without science to back them, have singled out restaurants in the war against Covid. He states that our local restaurants are safer than many of the other places you could walk into right now. He states meanwhile that in Roscoe / Rockton it is perfectly legal at Walmart on Black Friday people can stand in line for long periods of time, less than six feet apart, masks are not worn correctly. It is clear that science isn't what is motivating this anymore. He is disappointed that our village is taking the blind steps and further complicating things for the local businesses.
4. 6:45 pm: Ryan Asta, Louie's Tap House 5689 Elevator Rd, Roscoe IL
Ryan started by stating we are all in a very hard spot here, the Village President, Trustees local businesses, he has sent an email to Scott Sanders, trustees and President and will await response. We want your support and help, we have always been backed up by the community and Village. Customers in the area are social human beings, with that being said by shutting down our Roscoe local business, we are pushing our locals to other areas that are fully open. If we are worried about containing the virus and the spread it is doing the exact opposite. All other points have been touched by previous comments. He would appreciate any support.
5. 6:48 pm: Josh Labree, 270 Hononegah Rd, Roscoe IL
Mr. Labree, stated he has lived in Roscoe for 30 years, he expressed his disappointment in the current situation. Stated everything has been addressed. He is ashamed of the way this has been handled, the letters that the Village has sent the small businesses. Stated this isn't the same Roscoe he grew up in. We can go into Walmart which is packed and shipped but can not go into a local restaurant, at no time did he not feel safe. Says Roscoe is following in the footsteps of Illinois in general and pushing people out.
6. 6:52 pm: Steve Quies The Poison Ivy, 5765 Elevator Road, Roscoe IL
Steve started out by asking on behalf of himself and the rest of the restaurants and bar owners of Roscoe to let them open. He stated he isn't asking, he is begging that since this pandemic he has gone from 22 employees to 3. Asking that we really reconsider reopening these businesses and reconsider how it is being handled. Areas around are thriving and we are dying. Mr Quies had heartfelt passionate comments for the board to reconsider.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Mark Szula

President Szula requested Administrator Sanders to speak of the status of the letter that was sent. Administrator Sanders stated several months ago the board adopted an ordinance that essentially took the Governor's Executive Orders and Mitigation measures and made them village ordinances. The letter was to inform business owners (specifically bar and restaurant owners) that as the mitigation steps intensified, and reduced the gathering of people going from 25, 10 to 0 people effective November 20th. The letters were sent out on or around November 20th to local businesses informing everyone of the ordinances and orders, as well as the Village of Roscoe’s intention of enforcing them.

President Szula called on Attorney Kurlinkas the village attorney to address the ticket situation and what the officers were doing. Attorney Kurlinkas stated that the notice to appear and in that notice it lists the date, as well as the charge and the ordinance it pertains to. Each notice has the Ordinance No 2020-22 attached. Attorney Kurlinkas states its a maximum of \$750.00 fine, but would depend on the number of violations. Therefore the first offence is likely to be smaller and increase per offense.

President Szula addressed the comments from the public, addressing why we are meeting virtually. President Szula, stated they tried to configure the Village Hall so that meetings could be held publicly but it was not possible due to the configuration of Village Hall. In order to keep everyone safe it was decided to continue to meet virtually to keep employees safe. President Szula also mentioned that we have had more attendance from the public virtually than previously in person. President Szula stated it is his responsibility to keep everyone safe in the Village of Roscoe. He stated the village has not shut down any businesses but requested those businesses to go to curbside. President Szula expressed he appreciated the passion from those who spoke in public comment and understands what they are saying and how they feel. He reminded us that our responsibility is to everyone in the Village of Roscoe, not just the businesses. He stated that as it stands right now “we are all in this together”.

6. TREASURER’S REPORT – Mark Olson

1. Cash Report and Bills: Treasurer Stromquist presented the Treasurer’s report.
The total bills to be submitted for approval are expenditures per list of **\$475,488.00**
Payroll expenses: **\$77,761.00**
Cash on hand after payment of bills: **\$4,909,187.00**
Motor Fuel expenditures: **\$0.00**
Cash on hand in the Motor Fuel fund is: **\$1,095,955.00**

2. Approval of Bills President Szula entertained a **motion,**

Trustee Keene made a **motion to approve;**
Seconded by Trustee Plock.

Discussion:

1. Trustee Gustafson - Wanted Steve to explain the Foster & Foster Report in bills, it was stated that was for the reports for the Police Pension Fund, they thought it was paid but it wasn't. She asked that Steve put it in Drive.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Dunn, Petty, Keene, Gustafson, Plock and Mallicoat- YES.
Motion Passed: 6-0-0

7. **CONSENT AGENDA (NO DISCUSSION REQUIRED)**

Approval of Minutes from the November 17, 2020 Village Board Meeting, President Szula entertained a **motion**,
Trustee Plock made a **motion to approve**;
Seconded by Trustee Keene
Trustee Gustafson, wanted to thank Stephanie Johnston for a job well done for the minutes and the format was great and easy.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Plock, Gustafson, Kenne, Mallicoat, Dunn and Petty - YES.
Motion Passed: 6-0-0

8. **MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS (FINAL ACTION)**

1. Approval of **Resolution 2020-56**, authorizing the purchase of six (6) in squad camera systems and all related equipment, software, and support for the quoted amount not to exceed \$45,000.00

President Szula entertained a **motion**

Trustee Plock made a **motion to approve the amount to not exceed \$45,000**;

Seconded by Trustee Mallicoat

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Mallicoat, Petty, Keene, Gustafson, Plock and Dunn- YES

Motion Passed: 6-0-0

2. Approval of **Ordinance 2020-25**, an Ordinance approving the Abatement of the 2020 Property Tax Levy for General Obligation Alternate Bond Series 2017.

President Szula entertained a **motion**,

Trustee Keene made a **motion to approve**;

Seconded by Trustee Plock

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Gustafson, Plock, Mallicoat, Dunn, Petty, and Keene,- YES

Motion Passed: 6-0-0

3. Approval of **Ordinance 2020-26**, an Ordinance approving the Abatement of the 2020 Property Tax Levy for General Obligation Alternate Bond Series 2018.

President Szula entertained a **motion**,

Trustee Mallicoat made a **motion to approve**;

Seconded by Trustee Keene

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Dunn, Petty, Keene, Gustafson, Plock, Mallicoat,- YES

Motion Passed: 6-0-0

4. Approval of the 2021 budget (in tentative form).

President Szula entertained a **motion**,

President Szula asked Administrator Sanders if he wanted to address the final draft on the budget, Administrator Sanders stated that the only change made is reflected in green in the fourth and final column. The change is where the board agreed to commit and contribute \$35,000 to the Police Pension Fund. The other change was for the Police and Fire Commission. Administrator Sanders raised the budget for them due to the new hire list, testing and promotions and lateral transfers list. Administrator Sanders raised appropriations to \$25,000 to accommodate. The General Funds Expenditures Appropriated total is \$6,012,938.00.

Trustee Plock made a **motion to approve**;

Seconded by Trustee Mallicoat

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Petty, Keene, Dunn, Mallicoat, Plock - YES

Gustafson- NO

Motion Passed: 5-1-0

9. NEW BUSINESS (FIRST READING or SUSPEND RULES)

1. Approval of Ordinance 2020-24, an Ordinance approving the 2020 Property Tax Levy.

(Motion to recommend Approval of maintaining 2019 Tax year Levy amount failed at COTW 2-4-0 on 11/17/20)

President Szula entertained a **motion**,

Trustee Mallicoat made a **motion to suspend the rules**

Seconded by Trustee Keene

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Dunn, Plock, Mallicoat, Petty, and Keene - YES

Trustee Gustafson - NO

Motion to suspend the rules Passed: 5-1-0

Attorney Kurlinkas stated the motion should be made for the total amount as opposed to percentage, the total amount is \$1,493,528.80. Trustee Mallicoat amended his motion to the amount versus the 2.33%.

Discussion:

Trustee Dunn stated that he can not support raising the levy at this time, and anything we can do to help our residents would show some good faith towards our constituents.

Trustee Gustafson, stated we have a PR problem here and agrees with Trustee Dunn that even though it is a small amount, that we should think of the taxpayers and show that we

do care, the \$38,000 total is not going to draw a red flag in our budget. She asked the board to consider this and think of the taxpayers.

President Szula entertained a **motion**,
Trustee Mallicoat made a **motion to increase the Levy total amount of \$1,493,528.80**
Seconded by Trustee Keene

Trustee Dunn, Gustafson - NO
Trustee Plock, Mallicoat, Keene, Petty - Yes
Motion passed - 4-2-0

2. Approval of **Resolution 2020-52**, approval of entering into a professional services agreement with Fehr Graham for the design of a new Public Works building addition for the quoted amount of \$20,445.00.

(Motion to recommend Approval received tie vote at COTW 3-3-0 on 11/17/20)

President Szula entertained a **motion**,
Trustee Mallicoat made a **motion to suspend rules**;
Seconded by Trustee Plock
Roll Call Vote: Trustee Plock, Keene, Mallicoat, and Petty - YES
Trustee Dunn, Gustafson - No
Motion Passed: 4-2-0

President Szula entertained a **motion**,
Trustee Mallicoat made a **motion to approve**;
Seconded by Trustee Plock

Discussion:

Trustee Dunn had a question as to when do we expect this project to take place? President Szula stated he did not have a time frame for that, but to remember this was one of the projects that we wanted to have ready for the infrastructure bill would come. Administrator Sanders said the funds have not been appropriated for the build this is for the design no definite time frame. Dunn stated so if we approve and have it designed and the funds dont come thru the project could be 2024, 2023? President Szula stated we were going to do it last year, and we want to move forward to be ready.

Trustee Gustafson, asked why is it necessary to go through an engineering firm for what is essentially a pull building? Administrator Sander stated we need to put this build out to bid, it is not cold storage it will have heat and plumbing. Trustee Gustafson stated we are going to go forward when we are in an uncertain environment, a world of uncertainty

for a shelf document to construct a building that may not get done 2 or 3 years down the road.

Trustee Dunn said it's like trying to take the shot at a Lottery ticket by spending the money with the hopes of getting money from Springfield. President Szula stated money wont come from Springfield.

Trustee Plock said this is something that needs to happen regardless if we get State or Federal funding. That we have over \$500k in reserve and the building would cost like \$200k. He stated he drives past the building everyday, as we have equipment sitting outside. This was looked at and talked about last year and approved last year. That it needs to happen regardless.

Administrator Sanders stated that it was approved to be completed last year, however with the pandemic it was shelved. He stated, stating we are not approving the construction, we are just approving the design of the building.

Trustee Petty stated she wanted to mention to the public that we do have new vehicles and equipment that do need to be housed. Trustee Petty stated when she supported the project the build was supposed to be \$90,000 and now it's over \$200,000?

Administrator Sanders, he said when we first started it was \$90,000 it was because we were going to be doing some of the construction ourselves. However, after further discussion, this may invalidate and void some of the warranties on the structure. Mr Sanders stated that the revised estimate was not \$200k but it was around \$130k for construction. We need to complete the design to have a more accurate estimate of construction costs.

President Szula reiterated that Trustee Plock was just throwing a number out there but it was like \$130k.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee keene, Plock, Mallicoat - YES
Trustee Petty, Dunn, Gustafson, Petty - NO
President Szula advised 3-3 - he will break tie with - YES
Motion passed - 4-3-0

10. OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Petty went back to minutes of October 6, when the Village approved the ordinance 2020-22 related to enforcement of executive order. It states clearly that Scott spoke to the Winnebago County Health Department and that they were not looking for Roscoe to enforce the use of the law enforcement. They are asking for the Village to officially acknowledge the orders of the governor. So it's documented.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

7:30 pm: Cary Runkle- lives in Harlem Township 9948 Jesters Row, Roscoe IL
Mr Runkel expressed his concern and frustration with regards to the Village board with what they are doing to small businesses, all the while they are passing all kinds of money and resolutions. Not to mention that the board gave themselves raises during a pandemic. Expressed the Village does not care. Stated WIFR should come out and interview the small businesses. President Szula addressed the resolution to pass for the increase of salaries for 2023 for those incoming. Stated he is not here to worry about getting elected he is here to ensure he does everything for the Village of Roscoe not just the businesses.

7:33 pm: Fati Maxhi, 5951 Wainwright Ct, Roscoe IL
Mr. Maxhi wanted to speak again, wanted to thank everyone for comments and spoke. He addressed President Szula that he is sure their social media campaign hasn't helped and sure it is frustrating, but the village is telling us to do curbside like it's the magical answer. Their business can not continue with curbside, it just isn't possible they went from 25 to 3 employees. You can't survive with carrying out. He welcomed President Szula to come and tell their employees they are out of job because they can't keep the doors open. He wanted to point out that WREX is covering and will be publishing.

7:36 pm: Steve Quise of Poison Ivy, 5765 Elevator Road, Roscoe IL
Mr Quise, made heartfelt passionate pleas to please let them stay open and would do anything, and follow any rules for capacity. He is trying to survive and doesn't want to lose his business. He doesn't feel anyone on board or the President doesn't care and it's on deaf ears.

President Szula, addressed Steve's comment that he appreciates his comments and that he is following the guidelines. He stated he has appreciated everyone's comment.

7:42 pm: Katie Littlefield, 9842 Fantail Place, Roscoe IL
Stated that what she witnessed tonight is a dysfunctional board, and it's eye opening. She states that President Szula is disingenuous, and condescending She thanked Dunn, Petty and Gustafson for their comments and for speaking up. It is clear that 3 other trustees are told how to vote. She stated it is sad, but incredible, it was a disservice to have voted for you.

7:45 pm: Scott Kanaly, Walton Rd, Roscoe IL
Mr Kanaly expressed he appreciates the effort that the Village Board is putting forth. The small businesses, if the border stops at Roscoe the schools are still open. If you care so much to shut down the businesses, what are they supposed to do about their kids? It's ok to go to school 2-3 days a week, but they can't go to the business? Who is it you are protecting? We voted you in, but you don't want to support the small businesses here in Roscoe. You work for us here in Roscoe. We won't vote you back in.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

President Szula entertained a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:49 pm

Trustee Keene made a **motion to move to Executive Session;**
seconded by Trustee Plock.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Keene, Plock, Mallicoat, Petty, Dunn and Gustafson- YES

Motion passed 6-0-0

Administrator Sanders explained to those on call that we are going into the Executive Session, and they are welcomed to stay on. He stated when they return they will move to adjourn. He thanks everyone for their participation this evening.

President Szula entertained a **motion to return to open session at 9:38 pm**

Trustee Plock made a **motion to move to return to open session;**

seconded by Trustee Dunn.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Petty, Dunn, Keene, Plock, Mallicoat and Gustafson

Motion passed 6-0-0

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Szula entertained a **motion to adjourn at 9:39 pm**

Trustee Dunn made a **motion to adjourn;**

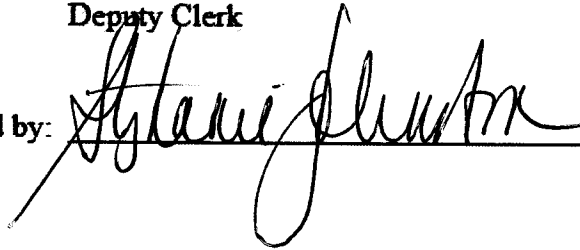
seconded by Trustee Plock.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Petty, Dunn, Keene, Gustafson, Plock and Mallicoat- YES.

Motion Passed: 6-0-0

Prepared by: **Stephanie Johnston**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

 Date: 12/15/2020