

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

VILLAGE OF STEWARD, ILLINOIS

402 Main Street

Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to order/pledge - 7pm
2. Roll Call - Zach (y) Chris B (Y) Erik M (y) Laura S (y) James T (y) Rylee B (y)
3. Approval of the Agenda- Laura would like to add under New Business the following items: Celebration Garden, Mowing of Village Properties, Gravel in the alleys, Electronic Discard Day, Depot Museum, Dumpster Day for Spring Cleaning and Abandoned property on Main Street. Rylee motions to approve with the additional added items. Zach seconds.
4. Minutes of the January 8, 2024 Meeting - Rylee motions to approve as presented. Zach seconds.
5. Treasurer's report - Matt gave report. Laura motions to approve report and Rylee seconds. Roll Call Vote: Zach (y) Chris B (Y) Erik M (y) Laura S (y) James T (y) Rylee B (y)
 1. Retention of Village Treasurer and review salary - Rylee motions to retain Matt as treasurer with an increase in pay to \$125 a month paid semi annually. Zach seconds. Roll Call Vote: Zach (y) Chris B (Y) Erik M (y) Laura S (y) James T (y) Rylee B (y)
 2. Review bank accounts for better interest rates : James makes a motion for Matt to investigate CD rates and make a decision next month. Laura seconds.
6. Accounts Payable - Zach makes motion to pay bills as presented. Rylee seconds. Roll Call Vote: Zach (y) Chris B (Y) Erik M (y) Laura S (y) James T (y) Rylee B (y)
7. Visitor Recognition - Karen Bonnell and Doug Brock in the gallery
8. Committee Reports
 - A. Water Info:

1. Water Operator Contract Renewal and review salary - Rylee motions to retain Brad with same contract for next two years. Laura seconds.
2. Water Biller position retention and review salary - Zach motions to retain Chrissy Smardo as water biller with in an increase in salary to \$200 paid quarterly. Laura Salazar and Rylee seconds. Roll Call Vote: Zach (y) Chris B (Y) Erik M (y) Laura S (y) James T (y) Rylee B (y)

B. Park/Village Property

1. Report of Property Maintenance

- a. Depot Return of \$ - Laura has contacted painter with no reply. Next step is to contact employee with letter written by lawyer and Hugh to sign. YES (6) and No (0)

b.

2. Tree Report- nothing from Karen

1. 426 Main Fuller Street trees- tenant would like to build garage but trees in way. Karen to investigate trees.

2.

3. Publicity / Items for Newsletter /Technology/Website/Facebook- Vandalism at Post Office, Possible Cameras at Village Hall to be investigated by Zach and Easter Egg hunt

9. Old Business

- A. 2024-25 Budget - Laura mentions about hiring landscapers. Zach mentions getting estimates for taking care of village property. Hugh to redo proposed budget for 24/25 and hopeful to have next meeting.

- B. Progress Report on Steward Solar Project: Meeting 2-20-2024 - Check is supposed to be on way, meeting to be on rezoning and Phase 2.

- C. Fiber Internet report - not a word from Mancek, Frontier to possibly come. Hugh to ask about Frontier at next Mayor meeting.

10. New Business

- A. Review Closed Session Minutes - none to review

- B. Review and authorize retention of Village attorney and auditing firms - Laura motions to retain current lawyer Russ Crull and Accountant Bill Newkirk. Zach seconds. All in Favor.

- C. Easter Planning - 3-30-24 at 9. More information next meeting

D. Celebration Garden - Zach motions for board of trustees to make decisions for the celebration garden until further notice. Rylee seconds. All in favor.

E. Gravel in alleys - alleys to be grated then see where they are at in Spring. Maintenance to be done in Spring 2024.

F. Electronic Recycling Day - Hugh suggested maybe calling Lee county.

G. Depot Museum - Laura would like to do events there now that repairs are being done .

H. Dumpster Day - Spring Cleaning within the Village. Laura to check on prices for dumpster.

I. Abandoned Personal Property on Main St. - two boats and Van. Hugh to look into proper removal of these items.

11. Next Meeting Date March 11, 2024 at 7:00pm

12. Adjournment of regular meeting - Zach motions to adjourn at 8:18 pm Erik seconds.