



# Village of Caseyville

909 South Main Street  
Caseyville, Illinois 62232

Phone: 618-344-1234

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## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2014

### Call to Order:

LEN BLACK  
Mayor

ROB WATT  
Village Clerk

The regular meeting of the Village of Caseyville was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Leonard Black. The meeting was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 in the Council Chambers at 909 South Main, Caseyville, IL 62232.

WALTER ABERNATHY  
Trustee

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and silent prayer.

RICK CASEY, JR.  
Trustee

### Roll Call:

KERRY DAVIS  
Trustee

Trustees present: Rick Casey, Jr., Kerry Davis, Wally Abernathy; Ron Tamburello, Brenda Williams, G.W. Scott.

G.W. SCOTT, SR.  
Trustee

Others Present: Mayor Leonard Black, Superintendent of Public Works, Brian Rader, Police Chief Jose Alvarez, Village Attorney, John Gilbert and Clerk Rob Watt.

RON TAMBURELLO  
Trustee

BRENDA WILLIAMS  
Trustee

### Minutes

BRIAN RADER  
Supt. of Public Works

A motion was made by Rick Casey, Jr., seconded by Ronald Tamburello to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 15, 2014 and Special Board Meeting on January 22, 2014.

JOSE ALVAREZ  
Chief of Police

Kerry Davis had a correction for the Special Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2014. He wanted to add that he had asked how the street sweeper was going to be paid for and was told by Finance Chairman Rick Casey, Jr. that it would be paid out of TIF 1, the Water Fund and the General Fund.

There were no further additions or corrections

An amended motion was made by Rick Casey, Jr., seconded by Ronald Tamburello to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 15, 2014 and, with Kerry Davis' additions, the Special Board Meeting on January 22, 2014

Voting on Motion: all yeas, no nays - Motion Passed

Old Business:

- Motion was made by G.W. Scott, seconded by Kerry Davis, to approve Ordinance #1401 -- An Ordinance Establishing and Implementing a Program to Charge Mitigation Rates for the Deployment of Emergency and Non-Emergency Services by the Fire Department for Services Provided/Rendered for the Caseyville Fire Association.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by Wally Abernathy, seconded by Rick Casey, Jr., to approve Ordinance #1402 -- Ordinance to Regulate Raffles and Other Charitable Games within the Village of Caseyville.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by Wally Abernathy, seconded by Kerry Davis, to approve Resolution #1402 -- Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Business License to Par Restoration Service D/B/A Puroclem Emergency Restoration Services.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by Ron Tamburello, seconded by Rick Casey, Jr., to table the Mayor's Appointment of Pastor Henry Lewis as Chaplain.

Ron Tamburello brought up that the appointment of the Chaplain was normally appointed through the Police Department and not the Village Board. He was wondering if there was an Ordinance or Resolution that stated who appointed the Chaplain.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

**Citizen's Input:**

- Mayor Black read a statement concerning the termination of Jose Alvarez as the Caseyville Chief of Police. He mentioned that he could not go into details of the termination but did say he could not agree with the hiring of an Assistant Police Chief, which was not necessary with past Police Chiefs, and decided to go in a different direction.

- A citizen came to the podium to ask why the Mayor couldn't speak up when he was talking. He stated he was standing in the hall and could not make out what was being said and he thought no one else could either. The Mayor explained that we have a new system and it was working. A little more discussion was made about the voice level situation. After this discussion the gentleman thanked the Board and then returned to the Hall.
- The Mayor spoke to the crowd and asked that if they cannot hear him to let him know. Brenda Williams asked if people in the Hall could hear them and they responded that they could.
- The Mayor brought up that he is really interested in the dispatchers and that he and Chief Alvarez were going in different directions. He did not see spending \$60,000 for a full-time Assistant Chief when that money could be put towards the dispatchers. He believed that we were \$50,000 or \$60,000 away from bringing back the dispatchers. He brought up the cost-savings on not retaining Paul McNamara as one reason why we are close to bringing back the dispatchers.
- Chief Jose Alvarez raised his hand to ask if he could speak to the comments Mayor Black made concerning the dispatchers. Mayor Black gave Chief Alvarez the opportunity to speak.
- Chief Alvarez stated that the Mayor asked him about where the \$60,000 was going to come from and he answered that the money was coming from the vacancy of officer/patrolman Epps. Chief Alvarez stood and continued with facts that Officer Epps had not been to the Illinois State Police Academy, was not a 15-year Veteran and did not have a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He continued his statement with that he was asked by the Mayor and he told the Mayor he was ready to "flip the switch" but he needed 4 Telecommunicators. He had two ladies who voluntarily took the 80-hour TC School, offered by SILAC, on their own time and the Mayor was aware of that.
- Chief Alvarez continues his comments by stating that the money for the Telecommunicators is in his Budget along with enough funds for the Assistant Police Chief. He stated he got a current copy of his budget from Leslie on the day of the meeting. He advised the Mayor to talk to the Finance Manager who manages the budget that he received. Mayor Black asked if that money was for one-year but the questions wasn't answered.
- Chief Alvarez said that he told the Mayor that he needed to notify St Clair County 30 days in advance. He said he could not notify them if

he did not have someone to answer the phones to dispatch the Officers. He said if the Mayor was going to say it to say it correctly. After his comments, Chief Alvarez returned to his seat.

- The Mayor had a comment in which he asked where were the dispatchers from. Chief Alvarez stood and said they were not. He continued that there was only one other person in Caseyville, other than Linda Parmeley, that is capable of sitting at the radio. He said that he told the Mayor that was Ms. Herndon, Mr. John Herndon's daughter. He continued that if the Mayor wanted them hired from Caseyville all he needed to do was tell him. He said he would hire them from Chicago if he had too. The Mayor said that he would prefer they come from Caseyville. There was more discussion that included why those from Caseyville were not trained and why we had to get them from out of town. Chief Alvarez said the Mayor told him and Mayor Black denied that claim.
- Mayor Black stated that he gave Chief Alvarez full control of the Police Department. Chief, Alvarez, walking towards the Mayor, stated that he never had full control of the Police Department and that Bob Romanik ran the Police Department. He continued by stating that everything that is being said or done is on his radio show. During this exchange, a few people leave the room.
- Officer Frank Moore comes to the front of the room and tries to get Chief Alvarez to return to his seat. This starts an exchange that lasts several minutes in which Chief Alvarez makes numerous comments, towards Officer Frank Moore. Family members of Chief Alvarez come forward and get him to start returning to his seat. Chief Alvarez turns back to the Mayor and states that is what the Village residents want, a person to stand up to Bob Romanik. He tells Attorney John Gilbert that he can tell Romanik that he said it.
- Mayor Black makes a comment in which he states that Chief Alvarez represents the Village real good with his actions. Chief Alvarez approaches again and asks the Mayor to repeat his comments. The Mayor repeats his comments and Chief Alvarez states that he is really upset with the Mayor and that he is a disgrace to this community. The Mayor responds by stating his is upset with Chief Alvarez and asks if he is being a disgrace right now. Chief Alvarez states he is not. Someone from the crowd yells "Joey" and Chief Alvarez moves towards his seat.
- A comment is made from someone in the crowd and Chief Alvarez moves towards the comment. A family member stands between Chief Alvarez and the speaker. They exchange comments and then Chief

Alvarez is taken to his seat by his family member. Lastly, as Chief Alvarez sits down, he makes a comment to the person behind him concerning his membership to the FOP.

- A resident comes to the podium to state that he is in agreement with what Chief Alvarez stated. He continued by stating that the Mayor was fine with the Chief a month ago and asked if he tried to work things out before he fired him. He made additional comments concerning the Mayor's relationship with Bob Romanik and that he needed to do what was right for the Village and not certain people. The Mayor agreed with the last comments he made.
- Rick Pierce came to the podium to ask that person's wanting to speak should raise their hand, be civil and come to the podium to speak. He also stated that we just needed a little order to the meeting.
- John Buckley came to the podium and expressed his thoughts on the situation and let it be known that he has worked with the Chief and that he has done some good things since he has been there. He stated that he will not tolerate this kind of thing, that he will keep on doing what he has been doing and all the residents will do the same thing too
- Another resident came to the podium and asked if the Mayor gave a warning to Chief Alvarez for not being at his desk during the hours he mentioned or when he needed him. He also commented he owned his own business and didn't know of anyone that got fired after disagreeing about how to spend \$60,000.
- Many comments came from the crowd concerning the firing and when he was notified. Village Attorney John Gilbert let the crowd know that he was notified, that there were some things we could not discuss and that the Trustees would be given the information concerning the firing in executive session. The Mayor commented that there were other personnel issues and that Chief Alvarez did get his letter that they were not happy with things. Chief Alvarez corrected the Mayor that it wasn't we but the Mayor. The Mayor agreed. Then Chief Alvarez stated it wasn't the Mayor who terminated him but Attorney Gilbert.
- There was an exchange between Mayor Black and Chief Alvarez on the Mayor's whereabouts when statements were being made about Chief Alvarez's termination. Mayor Black stated he was not at Bob Romanik's house during his statement and that they could ask his wife, who was in the crowd.

- There was a disturbance in the crowd that had many in attendance turning around to see what was going on.
- There was a continuation of the Mayor's whereabouts and after a few minutes, Ron Tamburello asked for a recess and then stated that maybe the Board could go into Closed Session.

**New Business:**

- Motion was made by Wally Abernathy, seconded by Ron Tamburello, to approve the payment of our annual contribution of \$340 to continue participating with the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

A motion was made by Ron Tamburello, seconded by Brenda Williams, at 7:25pm, to go into closed for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 2.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

A motion was made by Brenda Williams, seconded by Ron Tamburello, to reconvene the meeting at 8:16pm.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- A motion was made by Brenda Williams, seconded by Kerry Davis, to disapprove the firing of Chief Jose Alvarez and put him back to work immediately.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by Wally Abernathy, seconded by Rick Casey, Jr., to give permission and permit to Hilmes Legal Solutions, LLC, for a 1-Year Anniversary/Open House on May 13, 2014.

Brenda Williams asked if the event was going to outside. Various members of the Board stated that it was.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by Kerry Davis, seconded by Wally Abernathy, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Bob Woodside to fill the last seat on the Caseyville Zoning Board of Appeals.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by Kerry Davis, seconded by Rick Casey, Jr., to approve the amending of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2013.

Brenda Williams asked why it happened in the first place. Rob Watt stated it was a bad typo on his part. Wally Abernathy stated there was adding to the minutes in which Brenda Williams stated she didn't consider that a typo.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

**Police**

- Motion was made by Brenda Williams, seconded by Kerry Davis, to assign Officer Kale Pirtle to the Drug Task Unit (DTU) of St. Clair County.

Rick Casey, Jr. asked that we try and wait, if possible, to get the grant money to help us out before we replace that guy. He asked if the grant was applied for and Chief Alvarez stated it was. Rick Casey, Jr. asked if there was a timeframe for the grant but was told by Chief Alvarez that he needed to check.

Brenda Williams let the Board know that she wanted this appointment to take effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

Rick Casey, Jr. stated again that he wanted to wait for the grant money because he knew we would have to replace the officer eventually, that he wanted to make sure the numbers were right. He wasn't 100% sure that they were and that some revenue was counted that shouldn't have been in the budget so we should watch that. He continued that if the grant money came in we would be home free for a year.

Kerry Davis asked when Brenda Williams needed it and she stated march 1<sup>st</sup>.

Wally Abernathy wanted to know if we could wait or did he need an answer now. Chief Alvarez stated he talked to the Sheriff and he understood the situation. Chief Alvarez explained that we have a serious drug problem and that we got out Officer back from MEGSI. MEGSI only helped with one issue and that we have had 4 deaths related to heroin. This was a major issue in the Village and that he was disappointed with MEGSI.

**Voting on the motion:** G.W. Scott - **Yea**, Rick Casey, Jr. - **Nay**, Wally Abernathy - **Yea**, Ron Tamburello – **Yea**, Brenda Williams – **Yea**, Kerry Davis – **Yea**

**5 Yeas - 1 Nay - Motion Passed.**

- Motion was made by Brenda Williams, seconded by Ron Tamburello, to table Ordinance #1403 – An Ordinance Creating the Position of Assistant Chief in the Police Department of the Village of Caseyville, County of St. Clair, State of Illinois.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by Brenda Williams, seconded by Ron Tamburello, to table Resolution #1403 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Employment Agreement with the Assistant Chief of Police.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by Brenda Williams, seconded by Kerry Davis, to approve Ordinance #1404 – An Ordinance Pertaining to the Impoundment of Vehicles and set the fee at \$200.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

The Village of Caseyville presented Police Sergeant Scott Miller with his 20-year Service Award. It was presented by Chief Jose Alvarez and Officer Miller thanked the crowd and the Village of Caseyville.



**Public Works/Building:**

- Motion was made by G.W. Scott, seconded by Brenda Williams, to approve Resolution #1404 – Resolution Authorizing the Village of Caseyville to Apply for Program Year 2014 Community Development Block Grant Funds for Long Street Bridge.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

- Motion was made by G.W. Scott, seconded by Wally Abernathy, to approve Resolution #1405 - Authorizing the Purchase of a Sewer Pump for the Parkdale Lift Station.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

**Planning/Zoning/Ordinances:**

- Motion was made by Wally Abernathy, seconded by Ron Tamburello, to approve Resolution #1406 – Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Business License to Woody’s Bar & Grill.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed**

**Committee Reports:**

- All Committee Chairman had nothing to report.

**Correspondence:**

- The Village Clerk, Rob Watt, did not have any correspondence for this meeting.

**Approval of Bills:**

- A motion was made by Rick Casey, Jr., seconded by G.W. Scott to authorize the expenditures of the bills and the money drawn from the proper accounts, as funds are available.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - Motion passed

**Miscellaneous:**

- Motion was made by Brenda Williams, seconded by Rick Casey, Jr., to approve amending and item on the February 19, 2014 Agenda from November 20, 2014 to November 20, 2013.
- Public Works Superintendent Brian Rader gave an update on the road salt situation. He said he made an agreement with Fairview Heights to assist us and that we would pay them back.
- MK Dashke stood at the podium and clarified the Hunter Safety Classes. One will be at St. Stephens, March 12<sup>th</sup>, and the other will be at the VFW two weeks later. She also mentioned the Youth Fishing Derby will be on June 14 9am-Noon. Frontier Days will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. October 18<sup>th</sup> will be the Freaky 5 and Oogle Moogle Monster Mash Dash. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Family day will be on July 5<sup>th</sup> starting at Noon. She stated are in the planning stages and are trying getting things going. The move to July 5<sup>th</sup> was done because we were offered more fireworks from the company if we used that date.
- Brenda Williams gave the Caseyville Police Incident Report. The total incidents were 476; 3 Felony arrests; 31 Misdemeanor arrests; 3 DUI arrests; 20 apprehension for warrants; 120 citations issued; 87 warnings issued. The report was prepared by Officer Spratt.
- Candi Eaves asked the question if the Village has stopped the sponsorship of planting trees in the park. With the death of Jim McQuary, she thought it would be good to start the program back up.
- Doris Pierce stood up and mentioned the first meeting of Caseyville on Watch (COW) meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Village Hall.
- Brenda Williams mentioned that Officer Chris Singleton and his police Dog Paco had seized 350 pounds of marijuana earlier in the day. The value of the seizure was not known at this time.

**Adjournment**

There was no additional business to bring before the Board. A motion was made by Rick Casey, Jr., seconded by Ron Tamburello, to adjourn the meeting.

No questions on the motion.

**Voting on the motion:** All yeas and no nays - **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Watt", written in a cursive style.

Rob Watt  
Village Clerk