



Village of Caseyville

909 South Main Street
Caseyville, Illinois 62232

Phone: 618-344-1234

Fax: 618-394-1234

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 17, 2014

Call to Order:

LEN BLACK
Mayor

The Special Board Meeting of the Village of Caseyville was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Leonard Black. The meeting was held on Monday, November 17, 2014 in the Council Chambers at 909 South Main, Caseyville, IL 62232.

ROB WATT
Village Clerk

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

G.W. SCOTT, SR.
Trustee

Absent: None

RON TAMBURELLO
Trustee

Others Present: Mayor Leonard Black, Interim Police Chief Frank Moore, Village Attorney Mike Manion. Clerk Rob Watt

BRENDA WILLIAMS
Trustee

Old Business

BRIAN RADER
Supt. of Public Works

None

Citizen's Input

- Ms. Angela Massey spoke to the Board about a petition she had from 60 people concerning their wishes of having Mr. Jose Alvarez removed as Chief of Police. She read what the petition stated and approached the bench to give copies of the petition to the Board. She asked that she get those back because those listed feared retribution for signing the petition. She gave the top reasons of how those signing felt about the situation. She stated that she received numerous phone calls about how well Interim Police Chief Frank Moore did with the response to two recent robberies. She thanked the Board for giving her the time to speak.
- Ms. Debbie Blaylock had comments for the Board. She hopes that everyone realizes and reflects on the terrible gossip that has been going on for the last two weeks. She also asked that everyone think if this could have been avoided at any given time. She thinks that it's time for the good Old boy

network to go down. She states that the people deserve better and their families not targeted. We have good police officers but if they cannot follow the rules and regulations and the bad talk keeps continuing then they need to move elsewhere. She refers back to the Good Old Boy network being around for too long and it's time to stop. She states that she has been in Mexico but all the gossip came crashing down on her when she got back in town. She states that she is not happy about that and if she could find someone to buy her property she would be gone. She gives the reasons why Caseyville is a great place to live but there are neighborhoods where people are afraid to walk at night. She mentions an episode of gang markings in a neighborhood and citizens having to bring it to the attention of the Village. She ends her comments with no matter how the Board votes tonight the future of the Village is on their shoulders and that they need to remember they are in elected positions. She states that you catch more people with sugar than you do with vinegar.

- Ms. Grace Brooks read a letter she prepared for the Board. In the letter, she lets the Board know how long she and her husband have lived here and how they raised their kids here. She mentions in her professional career she has been a boss and sometimes you have to make tough decisions. She mentions that the Board, whether they like it or not, are bosses and tonight they are going to have to make a hard decision. She states the Board's main and only interest should be the safety and welfare of the residents of Caseyville. She states she feels sorry for the Board but, at the same time, they have been elected to be Caseyville's Leaders. She states that tonight the Board is going to have to lead. She states that she does not know Mr. Alvarez personally, but decisions are made on facts not on personal endeavors. She states that our goal is to have a safe and well-policed area. She states that our good police officers and employees work hard but are in work environments that have them hating to come to work every morning. She asks if we expect our employees to work under these types of conditions. She states that no one can fill the qualifications needed to serve in the position that is very critical to leadership in our Village. She states that it is unfortunate, that in our opinion, that Mr. Alvarez does not meet these qualifications to keep our Village running smoothly. She states that we, the people, ask the Board to put away personal agendas and petty differences to the side and do the job you were elected to do. She states that the Board should work together as a well-oiled machine and should have to respect to agree to disagree. She states that they are tired of the fighting, bickering and the negative publicity in the newspapers and in the news media. She states that they are tired, are ready to take their Village back and that they grow in numbers every day. She says the Board should expect to see and hear from them more often and that they are not going to give up. She states that they thought they elected grown men and women and now they should do their job.

➤ Mr. John Wilson had comments for the Board. He stated that he served on the pension board for our Police Officers for many years and at one time he was a Police Commissioner for Caseyville. He states during that time, things worked smoothly, they took care of their pensions but never came to the public to ask who they were supposed to hire or fire. He states that you have Police Commissioners who are supposed to hire and dismiss. He states the Mayor appoint but then asks Mayor Black how many Chief's he has appointed. He mentions the candidate from Collinsville that wouldn't even accept the job because he had seen the handwriting on the wall and seen the turmoil after Mayor Black was elected. He states that there is one person to blame for this, pointing at Mayor Black, and that he is sitting right there. He states that he made changes and then he is fired. He states that Mayor Black has asked people to give up their livelihood to come to Caseyville, give up what they have been doing for 20 years and now Mr. Alvarez doesn't have a job but does Interim Chief Moore have a job, no one knows. He states that the Board needs to make a decision that was made a long time ago. He goes over a reason why the Mayor got rid of Mr. Alvarez and that some of the Board members agreed to that. He states that why doesn't the Board sit there and do their job because people pay their taxes, want a Chief of Police, want a Police Chief that respects us and they in turn will respect that Chief and his officers. Mayor Black mentions that he wants to make one comment to Mr. Wilson. He states the first choice was Todd Link and they could not get arrangements with his pension. He states that is probably the only reason that he can think of why Officer Link is not here now. A comment was made from the Audience by John Buckley stating that he works with someone that knows Todd Link and that the Mayor's explanation is not the reason why.

Closed Session

- A motion was made by Ron Tamburello, seconded by Rick Casey, Jr., at 6:16pm, to go into closed session for:

To discuss litigation (*Alvarez v. Village of Caseyville*) pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) and personnel matters (employment, performance, and/or dismissal of Jose Alvarez as Chief of Police) pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1).

No questions on the motion.

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

- A motion was made by Rick Casey, Jr., seconded by Ron Tamburello, to come out of closed session at 7:45pm.

No questions on the motion.

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

- A motion was made by Rick Casey, Jr., seconded by Wally Abernathy, to reconvene the meeting at 7:47pm.

No questions on the motion.

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

New Business:

- Motion was made by Ron Tamburello, seconded by Rick Casey, Jr., to approve the removal and discharge of Jose Alvarez as Chief of Police.

No questions on the motion.

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

4 Yeas - 2 Nays - Motion Passed

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 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by



Rob Watt
Village Clerk