



Village of Caseyville

909 South Main Street
Caseyville, Illinois 62232

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 20, 2023

G. W. SCOTT, SR.
Mayor

CINDY MILLER
Village Clerk

WALLY ABERNATHY
Trustee

JOHN BUCKLEY
Trustee

KENT LUEBBERS
Trustee

RON SANFTLEBEN
Trustee

MATT MODROVSKY
Trustee

DAN CARY
Trustee

BRIAN RADER
Supt. of Public Works

THOMAS COPPOTELLI
Chief of Police

DOUG STEWART
Attorney

TAMARA AMMANN
Treasurer/Comptroller

PHILLIP LITTLE
Zoning Administrator

JEREMY DIEL
Fire Chief

Call to Order:

The Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Caseyville was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor G.W. Scott, Sr., in Council Chambers at 909 S. Main Street, Caseyville, Illinois.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

Roll Call:

Mayor G.W. Scott, Sr.

Trustees: Wally Abernathy, Ron Sanftleben, Dan Cary, Kent Luebbers, John Buckley

Absent: Trustee Matt Modrovsky

Village Clerk Cindy Miller

Attorney Doug Stewart

Others Present: Chief Tom Coppotelli, Public Works Superintendent Brian Rader, Gabby Ahle, Tamara Ammann Treasurer/Comptroller, Deputy Chief Lt. Kale Pirtle

Minutes:

A motion was made by Kent Luebbers and seconded by Ron Sanftleben to approve the Regular Meeting minutes, and Committee Meeting minutes of December 6, 2023.

No additions or corrections.

Voting on Motion: - 5 Ayes – 1 Absent; – Motion Passed

Citizen's Input:

Leonard Black – Zoning Administrator looked up his duties which is 2 ½ pages of what he needs to do. It states he is to provide reports, does he give you monthly written reports? The Chief and Brian provide reports at the meetings. He could give Reports to the Clerk for them to read. Are any reports going to be available in the future. His duties also include that he has a Valid Driver's License, does he have one and if not, why is he driving a Village vehicle? He is not on call 24/7, he drives 30-40 miles a day and that should all be included in his benefits. Does no one know anything about this individual? Thanks, your questions, and comments have been noted.

Citizens Input (cont.)

Keri Davis Cary – Daughter Danielle Cary was with her. Since I can only address the Board as a whole during a Board meeting. My daughter was on a very prestigious journey this summer, she was awarded the Girl Scout Gold award and Trifecta Award. She also earned and received the Congressional Award Gold Medal from Washington, DC. Then came home to earn the President’s Volunteer Service Gold Medal from the White House. Sometime during the summer, a plan was discussed regarding a plaque/sign to recognize Dani for her accomplishments. As months go on there has been no follow-up from the Board regarding this recognition. A call was made to the Mayor who was unavailable, and it was passed on to someone saying they represent the Mayor and the Village to discuss how we could acknowledge this young lady thru the Village and other entities, this call was from State Representative Katie Stuart. They in turn were talking with the Superintendent of Unit School District, Caseyville Library District and Congresswoman Budzinski. They wanted to include the Village but were advised that the Village was not interested at the time, and this was only a political ploy. After numerous phone calls they were advised that the Village would not budge or give their blessing to make this happen, so they decided they would have no more contact with the Village. The High School is doing something on their own. But I am very disappointed that a hometown girl cannot be recognized by her own Village. Hopefully something will transpire in the future. Obviously, she was discriminated against because of her name and last name. If you are not going to do better for the adults in our community surely you will try to do better for the youth in our community, as they are our future.

Deb Doughty – I am a very concerned Citizen. I am going to read a disturbing post that was addressed to: “Matt Modrovsky, Dan Cary, Kent Luebbers, Billy Hayes, Rebecca Take – I am nobody’s Toy Soldier, you got it, especially you cowards who hold an Office”. This individual started a story with no merit. Left out hanging by 3 Trustees, not sharing this by myself. He was either hired or befriended by these individuals who knew this story, shame on you. Information was shared with me through e-mail and text from these 3 Trustees. Trustee Cary – do you really know this man’s history, and do you believe everything you read on Facebook? Deb – you do realize there is a chain of command and the Mayor is the Boss? Trustee Cary – no we are all the bosses; we are a Trustee driven Legislation. Now let me read more from this individual who is now calling the Village Residents “Hamas” (terrorists), that we are a militant group and murderers. I’M DONE!!!!

Old Business

Planning/Zoning

Motion was made by Wally Abernathy and seconded by John Buckley to Approve Resolution #23-86; A Resolution authorizing issuance of a Business License to On Time Contracting PLLC, 8800 Maple Ave., Caseyville, IL. Contingent upon background check and inspections.

Voting on the Motion: - 5 Ayes – 1 Absent; - Motion Passed

Motion was made by Wally Abernathy and seconded by Dan Cary to Approve Resolution #23-87; A Resolution authorizing issuance of a Business License to Red Lion Inn & Suites, 8950 Tucker Dr., Suite 222, Caseyville, IL (name change from Fairbridge Inn Express). Contingent upon background check and inspections.

Voting on the Motion: - 5 Ayes – 1 Absent; - Motion Passed

Special Events

Motion was made by Dan Cary and seconded by Ron Sanfleben to Approve Resolution #23-88; A Resolution to approve Caseyville Fireworks Display Agreement.

Voting on the Motion: - 5 Ayes – 1 Absent; - Motion Passed

Correspondence:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Ron Sanfleben and seconded by Kent Luebberts to pay the bills and the money drawn from the proper accounts.

No additions or corrections

Voting on Motion: - 5 Ayes – 1 Absent; - Motion Passed

Police Chief:

- Update on Bank Robbery the suspect is in custody. Southern Illinois District of Federal Court has several charges and has indicted him. He also has charges from Missouri for 3-4 robberies there. The suspect will be behind bars for a long time. He is in custody and also gave a full confession.
- Construction on the Police Station and City Hall addition has begun, ground moving. It's a Good Day for the Village. Also, heard that Shiloh has been granted the same grant dollars for their Police Department.
- Clearing up a rumor that an Anonymous Facebook poster has mentioned that once the Police Department is done, there is a Senate Bill for Caseyville, Washington Park, and St. Park to merge, and our Police Department/Station will handle all three locations. There is no such Senate Bill for a merger, has never been discussed and I called today to confirm. This is definitely Fake News!!!! Merry Christmas & Happy Holiday's!!

Superintendent of Public Works:

- Street –Maintenance work on trucks, plows, salt spreaders to prepare for winter weather. Plow training. Have been in discussions with Keller Farms regarding clearing ditches in their Fields.
- Water – installing water services. Repairing Fire Hydrants. Ground moving has begun for the new Police Station, and we have been having meetings/calls on a daily basis. Will get 157 cleaned up from the dirt.
- Illinois American Water rates will be increasing after the first of the year. Village handled ½ the rate increases last year and unfortunately will need to pass the additional cost increase onto the water customers. Only some of the increased costs was passed on last year and the new increase will begin in January, 2024. Since this is in the Village Code, no action is needed. Everyone have a Great Holiday!!

Attorney Doug Stewart:

- Going to Discuss the Transmission Story, how it started and when. In September I was at IML Conference to represent Caseyville and it was a great opportunity to brag about the Village regarding the Tyson expansion, Police Department, and the Levee updates. Apparently, Mr. VanHoose contacted the Village regarding the Mayor's Son repairing his truck transmission at the Village expense. In May of 2022 the Water Truck "W4" (1997 Ford truck was experiencing mechanical difficulties (not shifting into proper gears) while driving on Hollywood Heights Road. Marshall's Transmission Service recommends that the Transmission be

Minutes December 20, 2023 (cont.)

rebuilt, however truck was returned to Village Garage as it will be a few weeks before the work can be completed. Late May 2022 or early June 2022 the Truck "W4" was driven to Marshall's by a water department employee for repairs. Second employee follows to give the other worker ride back to Village. Approximately 6 weeks later the work is complete, Marshall's notifies the Village to pick-up "W4", the same 2 employees returned to Marshall's, retrieved the vehicle, drove "W4" and no longer experiencing issues. July 2022 Marshall's invoices the Village for the repairs to "W4". Back in September it was found about the transmission and Tamara responded to Mr. VanHoose with this information, but he still would not accept the information.

Chief Coppotelli contacts Illinois State Police Public Integrity Unit requesting outside investigation into transmission allegations. The request is preemptively made to have an independent third-party enforcement agency conduct an independent investigation and remove any allegations of bias by internal Village Officials and Staff.

Illinois State Police inform Chief Coppotelli that their investigation is complete and closed. ISP states that Marshall's staff provided statements that truck service was a Village owned vehicle. ISP findings closely align with the Village's internal findings.

In ninety days, I collected data from documents and Facebook posts to tie all the information together which entails 800 pages which gives the real story and I consider a pile of "crap".

Let me tell you the Village is not on fire; it is doing great things and businesses are wanting to come to the Village.

This misinformation campaign originated from Trustee Modrovsky. The best I could tell is he coordinated with Mr. VanHoose, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Take & Mr. Beland to create this misinformation campaign. As we started to get close to finding out how this originated, they then tried to approach other City Officials and when that didn't work, they tried implicating other individuals in this campaign. They claimed Clerk Cindy Miller and Debbie Blaylock were disseminating information and these two individuals immediately advised that had no interaction with Mr. VanHoose or any other individuals regarding this campaign. And immediately dispelled the allegations made against these two and watched the campaign go from there.

Minutes December 20, 2023 (cont.)

Mr. VanHoose, gentlemen, you can attest to this that he sent me copies of correspondence from Mr. Modrovsky and himself. Mr. Modrovsky then contacted me via phone and advised me that there were conversations between him and Mr. Hayes and others and this was intentional.

What I have done is create a document with my findings and I am passing to Clerk Miller currently 30 copies and you are more than welcome to obtain them after this meeting.

Per the Chief's request we reported to the States Attorney for this individual for Filing a false Police Report, Federal FBI Report, and a false Attorney General Report.

Chief is completing his information and once that is complete, I recommend you obtain a copy of his findings. I also ask that you read my Findings and trust I have given you concrete and complete information. Give the Chief a few weeks to finish gathering his information.

Chief Coppotelli – There is NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE, that this every happened. It is a total fable. I will tell you what I do know, I talked with both City employees separately, who have been employees for a while and they both corroborate the same story. The driver advised the Truck was not working, he contacted the Supervisor who in turn advised that he take to Marshall's Transmission immediately, at which time Marshall's told to take Truck back to garage and sat for 2 months, or maybe 2 weeks, cannot recall at this time what was reported. Truck was taken back to Marshall's, repaired, and still driving the Truck as of today. Spoke with the owner of Marshall's regarding this transmission, he advised he worked on the truck and talked with another employee who also worked on the truck. Another employee advised a City employee then picked up the Truck who was not G.W. Jr. This employee also advised that the same employee brought the truck to Marshall's after waiting for the parts. He also said he had never worked on Mr. Scott's truck, he advised he does know Mr. Scott, but has never done any work for him. I also asked about the Trucks, Mr. Scott's truck is a four-speed on the floor and the Village truck is an automatic, so I then asked is it possible to replace a different transmission into these trucks and the owner advised definitely not. The only mistake that happened is the wrong year was placed on the Invoice, 1996 and it should have been 1997. This could have been dealt with very easily with a couple of phone calls. In my 35 years of law enforcement this is my first experience. This is a non-story for a transmission. State Police did investigate, and Mr. VanHoose has requested to reopen. Marshall's representative talked to State Police on 2 different occasions and the State Police are satisfied with their findings and have closed this case.

Minutes December 20, 2023 (cont.)

I don't know what else to advise on this matter, or know what to believe, which I hope you don't believe the starter of this investigation, but do believe Myself, the Illinois State Police, the Marshall's Transmission Employees, and the Village Employees.

The only connection to this Transmission Scheme is that G.W. Scott Jr.'s cell phone # is on the invoice and that is the protocol, that a Supervisor provides his number in case there is questions that need to be answered immediately and the Supervisor not available in the office and then when Invoice is submitted to payment the Supervisor knows about the situation and approves the Invoice.

I am happy to answer any further questions.

I wish Trustee Modrovsky had been in attendance, so he could have defended himself. After I complete my report and submit it to the Board sometime in January, I will be requesting litigation on the ones who were involved in this scheme for the last 90 days.

I will also be working with Tamara to obtain an amount spent on investigating and defending, which at this time I would say \$10,000 but probably more than \$20,000. I will be working on a Resolution to bring to the Board in January once I have more information.

Steve from the Madison St. Clair County Records. You are on some of Mr. VanHoose's emails. Yes, and please note that I have not responded to any of them. If the State Police knocked this out in 2 days, why did it take you 810 pages. We figured it out on the same day. The 810 pages will be available for you to use in your lawsuit. Sir, these are documents. How much has the Village paid for this information, at this time - Nothing.

Trustee Luebbers – I have been accused of things in this scheme and I have never been interviewed. I did discuss with Brian Rader and Tamara Ammann, but never interviewed. Please set-up some time with Chief Coppotelli for your statements.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by John Buckley and seconded by Kent Luebbers to adjourn the meeting and go into Committee.

Voting on Motion: - 5 Ayes – 1 Absent; - Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.