



Village of Caseyville

909 South Main Street
Caseyville, Illinois 62232

618-344-1234
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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2024

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 DIEHL
Fire Chief

Call to Order:

The Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Caseyville was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Pro Tem John Buckley, in Council Chambers at 909 S. Main Street, Caseyville, Illinois.

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

Roll Call:

Absent: Mayor G.W. Scott, Sr.

Mayor Pro Tem: John Buckley

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

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 Ron Sanftleben and seconded by Dan Cary to approve the Regular Meeting minutes, and Committee Meeting minutes of January 3, 2024.

No additions or corrections.

Voting on Motion: - 5 Ayes; - Motion Passed

Citizen's Input:

Bradley VanHoose from Belleville, IL – It seems I was the topic of your 12/20 meeting, and I didn't know I was on the agenda, so maybe next time you want to talk about private litigation in a public meeting, especially about me, place my name on the agenda. At least give me the courtesy of that, and I would have shown up no problem at all. A lot of

Citizen's Input: (cont.)

misunderstandings about what I was doing and what Mr. Modrovsky was doing. When I talked to Matt Modrovsky initially, he asked me about some credit card bills that your Former Mayor had FOIA' d and that is what I was looking into. I too filed a FOIA because I know what it's like to ask the wrong questions around here, as they are being put through what I am currently going through. During the December meeting, Mr. Buckley you made a point to state that I am not a licensed this or a licensed that, I am a Legal Researcher and when you needed by help with Bob Romanik was putting the boot to you on the radio you didn't mind my assistance in filing FOIA's for you for the TIF II Checks and some other items, so don't put it on these three gentlemen. Basically, Matt didn't ask me to investigate the transmission, he wanted to know more about some battery purchases that the Village Police Department made and wanted to see the credit card statements your Former Mayor had gotten. Don't criticize these gentlemen for doing exactly what you did. On this truck issue, you did nothing for over a year until I filed to see the documents and paperwork. I never received an original invoice and in fact, the invoice I did receive did not have a license plate # or VIN # and 9 other invoices that Marshall's did had all that information and that's all I needed, but you never provided that. Then Chief Coppotelli said he had 2 State Police investigations that resulted in no charges, so now he is conducting one of his own. I would really like to know, Mr. Stewart, since I never filed a State complaint to any Illinois Police Department, I took it straight to the Federal Government why would you take consideration for charges on anything or file any false complaints to anybody in the State of Illinois. Mr. Gomric is a State's Attorney, not a U.S. Attorney, little difference there and you do understand that, right? That's what I thought. Anyway, the State Police did 2 so-called investigations with information on a couple of invoices and a cancelled check, that was it. Those are some of the things. Next time you want to talk about me, let me know. If anybody in this room has question about anything I have done, I'll be glad to answer it right now. Mr. Davis, thank you, I have never been to your home or you to mine, we are not friends, but at least you are an honest man. Kent Luebbers – we were accused, me Matt and Dan, of being in business with you, could you tell me what that was about? Brad VanHoose - I hadn't seen you in 8 years, Matt indicated you wanted some answers and I believe that is what I did. Kent Luebbers – I hadn't seen you in 8 years, the last time I saw you was when Leonard Black was Mayor. Brad VanHoose – physically I have not been in the Village of Caseyville in 8 years, and I try to avoid the place. I was taking questions; I am here to answer like a man. So again, don't criticize these gentlemen, just like what you did.

Citizen's Input: (cont.)

Deb Doughty – There is some very important Village Business that is being handled this evening, Resolution #24-04 regarding the Water department. Would really like to see everyone on this Board to please vote yes. This Grant was given to the Village by a Senator and the money would be well used since our water rates are going up again as of February 1. With more and more residents building and businesses coming into our Village we really need our own Water system. We had this opportunity 20 years ago and the Village Board passed, let's review this opportunity again and take care of business and take care of the Village Residents.

Lynda Abernathy – I am going to give a positive opinion. I love Caseyville and the Street Department and Water Department individuals are tremendous and are always willing to assist with your call, so thank you!

Kerry Davis – At the last meeting I explained to Mr. Stewart that his timeline was incorrect and that the information he received from his witnesses that Mr. VanHoose was at my house, was a lie. You made no effort to contact me to verify if it was or wasn't true and I asked you at the last meeting to please remove that from your timeline and I asked for a public apology. I am asking again (1) please remove that from the timeline if you have not already one so and (2) asking in front of all of these people and God to please apologize for a mistake you made. Doug Stewart – I apologize to you and your family for being drugged into this mess, you should not have been drugged into this, for anything I know at this moment. Are you going to remove my name and my wife's name from your timeline. Doug Stewart – whenever I issue an updated timeline, I will happily remove that, and I will not that I was provided incorrect information. Thank you, I appreciate that, and I know my wife does as well. Another thing I ask, and I have tried to take the high road, I did not want to throw out the Trustee's name, or what the Trustee has done to my family. I ask for an apology to my wife, my daughter, my grand daughter and myself, my entire family for some of the things this individual did, hope that he would man up and would at least say I apologize to the Davis family. I apologize for disrespecting my wife, your daughter and your granddaughter, and your entire family. So, John Buckley, are you willing to apologize to us and put this to rest? John Buckley, I don't know what you want me to apologize for. Kerry Davis – okay, fair enough, I will tell you then, again I am trying to do the right thing here, not trying to embarrass anyone or make a scene, so I will tell you why I am asking for an apology: 1) calling my wife a liar during a public meeting; John Buckley, No I did not do that. 2) you were yelling about the Davis family within these office hallways loud enough that my daughter and her coworkers could hear it and 3) you were involved in stopping my granddaughter from being recognized for her

Citizen's Input: (cont.)

achievements. John Buckley – I have not denied your granddaughter any recognition for her accomplishments, in fact I sent an e-mail to the Board members (which includes your son-in-law) in June and then in July it was brought up during a committee meeting. Doug Stewart – Mr. Davis before you go any further, just so you are aware of the whole situation, Clerk Miller has an email from Katie Stuart that it was not Mr. Buckley who caused your granddaughter for not being honored. Mr. Buckley had nothing to do with the situation and a certificate was also delivered today for your granddaughter. So, your information is incorrect in stating that Mr. Buckley was trying to sabotage this acknowledgement. Kerry Davis – so you are saying no one from City Hall took a call from Katie Stuart and said they were speaking on behalf of the Mayor. Doug Stewart – I did not say someone from Village Hall did not receive that phone call, as I do not have that information, but I can tell you with the information I have now, Mr. Buckley is not the one who received that call. Kerry Davis - Thank you for your response. The other issue I have is the witnesses who said that Mr. VanHoose was at my house, so are you the witness - I saw you drive by my house 3 to 4 times taking pictures. John Buckley – I go down that street a lot. Kerry Davis – so are you saying you are the witness that reported to Mr. Stewart that Brad VanHoose was at my house. John Buckley – I do not have to respond to your questions and your time is now over. Kerry Davis – well this just shows what kind of person you really are.

Old Business

Finance/TIF/Grants/Ins

Motion was made by Ron Sanfleben and seconded by Wally Abernathy to Approve Resolution #24-05; A Resolution approving the Wells Fargo vs. Caseyville Settlement Proposal.

Voting on the Motion: - 4 Ayes – 1 Nay; - Motion Passed

Public Works/Building

Motion was made by Wally Abernathy and seconded by Kent Luebbers to Approve Resolution #24-03; A Resolution authorizing additional surveying required for the Little Canteen Creek Levee.

Voting on the Motion: - 5 Ayes; - Motion Passed

Public Works/Building (cont.)

Motion was made by Wally Abernathy and seconded by Kent Luebbers to **TABLE** Resolution #24-04; A Resolution of support for a \$50,000 DCEO Grant for the investigation of the proposed well field and water plant site.

Voting on the Motion: - 4 Ayes – 1 Nay; - **Motion Passed**

Correspondence:

Letter from Katie Stuart – acknowledging Dani Cary’s accomplishments and how the process for a plaque in her honor was initiated. Also, read a Certificate from Nikki Budzinski to Dani Cary, that will be framed and placed with the History Display in Village Hallway.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Ron Sanftleben and seconded by Dan Cary to pay the bills and the money drawn from the proper accounts.

No additions or corrections

Voting on Motion: - 5 Ayes; - **Motion Passed**

Police Chief:

- This Friday, Officer Reid will graduate from the Canine Training and will start patrolling immediately.
- Received information from Brian (Cencom) regarding a lot of chatter on social media regarding a rabbit left out in the cold. Thanks to PETA I received 95 emails, as someone posted my information and other Board Members information on the post. It was a St. Clair County issue, as it was off Hollywood Heights Road, but a Caseyville mailing address. As far as I know the rabbit is safe and sound.
- Kudos to Brian Rader and his Street Department Team during the slippery cold winter weather. The Police Department and the Street Department worked together to handle any rough areas immediately.

Superintendent of Public Works:

- Thanks, Chief, for the kind words and I will pass them on to all the Village Employees. The Village has a great Street Department and Public Works Department, who jump right on these things very quickly. The Staff here at Village Hall and the Water Side as well, handle calls and communicate to us with any emergencies.
- Planning/Zoning – So. Main Diner, did an inspection the other day and met with Mr. Benson and Mr. Patel. There are still some structural issues that the Engineer needs to adjust to and then provide us with some updates. Their permits are still good, okay to still do some internal demo work. Something that the permits still require is more testing and inspections and then we will get back with the Structural Engineer.
- Street – Out all weekend during the inclement weather, unfortunately salt does not respond well in very cold temps, so the plows had a hard time hitting the roads. Currently doing maintenance work on trucks and salt spreaders.
- Water/Sewer – Did some water turnoffs. Had a water main break Saturday night. Had a couple sewer backups and cleaned those out.
- Met with Illinois American Water to discuss water rates and options to build a water plant. It was encouraging that they want to negotiate a long-term contract on water rates, as we had some really great numbers at the current plant. Later, we will still investigate the possibility of building our own water plant. At this time the Board Tabled the Resolution and we feel we can use that Grant money somewhere else.
- Police Station – Meeting on Friday with all contractors. Trying to obtain additional addresses for the Police Department. Attended a class on pipeline safety.
- Levee – Got approval on the additional Levee Surveying Study this evening, so can advise the Engineers to continue with their Engineering Study.

Minutes January 17, 2024 (cont.)

Attorney Doug Stewart:

- Main Street Diner the Board did approve initiating a demo but that has been placed on hold as there is progress in the redevelopment. Mr. Benson has been instrumental with this process, and I am sure he would be happy to answer any questions you may have as to what those spaces are going to be used for.
- Currently working on an abatement on Scates St. In discussions with the owners and hope to have a proposal to the Board at the next meeting with all the terms being ironed out.
- Levee – Met with the Engineers on the progress of everything. Timeline project is now backed up 90 days. Still continuing to move forward with our progress with the State and State Representatives trying see if Appropriations are available in this year’s budget cycle. Draft proposal has been sent to Board and waiting on feedback to meet the timelines.

Adjournment:

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

Voting on Motion: - 5 Ayes; - Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.