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**VILLAGE OF WESTFIELD**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** Monday, January 21, 2025 **TIME:** 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** North Room – Eason Hall

**Members Present:** Mayor Dennis Lutes, Trustee Josh Freifeld, Trustee Judy Einach, Trustee Johanna Kelley

**Excused:** Trustee Blake Maras

**Staff**: Becki Betts-Paternosh, Treasurer; Rob Genthner, Zoning Officer, Corbin Meleen, Police Chief; Josh Belcher, Fire Chief; Erin Schuster, Asst. DPW Director; Vince Luce, Village Clerk

**VISITORS/ATTENDEES:** Ed Slate, Scott Frudd, Courtney Thompson, Bill Begier, Amy Begier, Billy Begier, David Walker, Britt Mead, Don McCord

**MAYOR & BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

The December 16, 2024, minutes were approved unanimously as presented. J. Einach/J. Kelley.

**MAYORAL PRESENTATION OF THE NYCOM 25 CONTIGUOUS YEARS AND UP PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS**

The Mayor Presented 25 years and up certificates to the following Employees

Bill Begier 25+

Becki Betts-Paternosh 25+

Rob Genthner 30+

Vince Luce 25+

Becky Jackson 25+

Also mentioned were Ed LeBarron 35+ and Lynne Vilardo 35+

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF 30-DAY MUNICIPAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR THE PARKVIEW RESTAURANT**

The 30-Day Municipal Notification Waiver for the Parkview Restaurant was approved unanimously. J. Kelley/J. Freifeld

**SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

The Social Media Policy was approved unanimously as presented and is effective immediately, J.Freifeld/J. Einach.

**FIRST FRIDAY INFORMATION FOR 2025**

Item Tabled; Chamber Rep. Staunzie Grady couldn’t be at the meeting.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL 2025**

The board unanimously approved the use of Moore Park by the Westfield YWCA for the annual Arts & Crafts Festival beginning on the evening of Wednesday, July 23rd for set up; through Sunday the 27th for tear down. The Festival itself is the 25th and 26th of July.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Police Department report for December was unanimously approved as presented. J.Einach/J.Kelley

Corbin noted there were 354 Incidents total with 89 occurring outside the Village: 11 Penal Law arrests in the Village, none outside the Village. 15 V&T tickets issued 2 outside the Village. Corbin also provided a written comparison noting in 2023 there were 453 total tickets compared to 267 for 2024; 4,628 total incidents compared to 4,097 in 2024; 328 total arrests in ’23 compared to 208 for 2024.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The December 2024 Fire Department report was unanimously approved as presented. J. Einach/J. Freifeld.

Chief Belcher reported there were 52 calls during December with 12 Fire Calls and 40 EMS calls.

The Chief also noted the SCBA’s were ordered under the NYS grant totaling approximately $126K in new breathing apparatus.

Josh also reminded the board about the need to replace E292 which is a 1993. He noted the Federal AFG program for Fire Apparatus only recently awarded 16 vehicle/apparatus awards nationwide. He was told that our fleet is still relatively young and that worked against us in this last review. He said a stock vehicle with equipment may be the better more cost-effective option.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The mayor read the “Present” section of Andrew’s Recreation Department report for December which was approved unanimously. J.Kelley/J.Freifeld.

Andrew requested to carry over 10 accrued unused vacation days which was approved unanimously. J. Freifeld/ J.Kelley.

**ZONING OFFICER**

The Board unanimously approved the Zoning Officer Report for December noting a ZBA Area Variance Hearing and approval for the proposed Minor Subdivision filed by Chelsea Barmore at 117-119 Spring St. (Cliff Brown grandfather) on a motion by J. Kelley/J. Einach.

**HISTORIAN**

The Board approved the December 2024 and the Annual Historian Report for 2024 as submitted by Marybelle Beigh on a motion by J. Kelley seconded by J. Einach and carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The emergency water main replacement on N. Portage between Welch’s and Growers was approved unanimously at an estimated cost of $51,821.24 including engineering, materials and labor. J.Freifeld/J. Einach

**WATER & SEWER**

Erin reported that Kingsview finally completed the tie in for the manhole project at Growers and the Railroad. The only thing left is restoration once the weather breaks.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT**

The Board unanimously approved awarding the mini bid OGS 23166 for a new Ford Lightning pickup to low bidder Van Bortel Ford for the total cost of $62,790.62. The other bidder was from DeLacy Ford and was over $66,000.

Erin reported as was stated in Andrew’s email that they will be using $50,000 from NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Grant and the remaining balance will be covered by the IEEP so no cost to the Village of Westfield!!!! Freifeld/J. Kelley.

Erin requested an executive session to discuss the employment history of particular employees in the Electric Department.

**TREASURER**

Revenue and Expense reports were unanimously approved. Einach/J. Freifeld

The following Warrants were unanimously approved. Freifeld/J. Einach.

Water #37 $16,884.34

Sewer #37 $24,574.66

General #35 $20,255.59

Electric #35 $174,121.86

Sewer #39 $46,648.80

WWTP#4 $6,800.00

Water #39 $50,210.02

Electric #37 $259,606.91

General#37 $92,185.22

Vacation Carryover request of three (3) days for Treasurer Beck Betts-Paternosh was unanimously approved. Kelley/J. Freifeld

Budget Transfers were approved unanimously as submitted. Kelley/J. Freifeld.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

There being none, the Board unanimously moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular employees in the Electric Department. J.Kelley/J.Freifeld

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board exited the Executive Session at approximately 8:15pm on a motion/second by J.Einach/J. Freifeld respectively, and all voting in the affirmative.

As a result of the Executive Session, the Board approved the following individuals in the Electric Department to be upgraded earlier than the LOP like other employees in the past. Therefore, Trenton Leverentz from Lineworker B to Lineworker A provisionally and Scott Frudd, Dillon Kawski and Alex Nusom from Apprentice to Lineman B. Motion by J. Einach seconded by J. Freifeld with all voting yes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25pm on a motion by J.Einach/J. Kelley and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Vincent Luce, Village Clerk