**VILLAGE HALL OF HARRISTOWN**

 **December 18, 2023**

The Village of Harristown Board of Trustees held their monthly meeting on December 18, 2023 at 185 N. Kembark St, Harristown, IL. Trustees Jay Trusner, Les Jenkins, April Bogan, Kevin Vessels, Kurt Terry, Budget Officer Rick Laskowski, Treasurer Teresa Acree, Attorney Joshua Dubbelde, and Mayor Evelyn Deverell were present. Trustee Jeff Eller absent and Clerk Penny Allen will be late. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Adopt Meeting Agenda***

Need to add Chief Mark Nixon to the agenda regarding number of fire calls. Motion by Trustee Vessels to adopt the meeting agenda. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 5-0.

***Approval of Minutes***

Motion by Trustee Trusner to approve minutes. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-0.

***Visitors***

Krishna arrived, no discussion till later.

***Treasurers Report***

Treasurer Acree discussed.

Bills needing approved $4556.48

Motion by Trustee Trusner to approve above payments. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 5-0. Motion by Trustee Trusner to approve Treasurers report. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-0.

***Budget Officers Report***

BO Laskowski discussed. Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve Budget officers report. Trustee Terry 2nd. Approved 5-0.

***Zoning –*** nothing to report

***Public Works***

Report distributed. Water leaks discussed

.***Old Business***

*Cannabis lounge*- Q & A with Indus Reps (Krishna and Rose). Trustee Terry questioned how does the lounge support itself? Does not generate substantial profit; supports the dispensary. It is an indirect way to get customers. No revenue plan created, similar to a bar. Trustee Trusner asked if outside product can be brought in? No, not intended for outside product sale. Will lounge be staffed? Yes, similar to a bar setup; no alcohol will be served. Hours would be same as dispensary. Overconsumption will be same as a bar. What will be Village benefit? Exploring options such as fee, sales tax is benefit. Would be more dispensary business. A receipt will be required to bring product into lounge. A security guard at the entrance also. They expect to request a license in upcoming year. Business plan for lounge continues to be developed. Growery is a separate timeline. 2nd quarter of 2024 is timeline for lounge. If a restaurant, there would be a designated smoking area. The amended cannabis ordinance was given to

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Krishna. Lounge will be regulated and controlled. There will be a panic button if problems arise to call the police. Flashbomb’s are occurring in Decatur. An application is needed for a lounge; Mayor to sent to Krishna. A restaurant might be a good business venture for the lounge. Lounge will be finished after board license approved.

There will be a town hall meeting to get opinions on the lounge. Survey might be considered to get feedback. Are incentives to return completed surveys legal? Town hall meeting is preferred. Need to get both sides of the issue. Clerk Allen arrived. Town hall meeting regarding the cannabis lounge will be held on February 8th at 630 or700. This will be put in both newsletters. Trustee Vessels questioned if there was any headway on the part time police officer. Mayor Deverell will discuss later.

*Connxxus Metro*- Mayor let residents know who to call.

N***ew Business***

An email was received from the fire department. They are charged with every call that is made. This year for the village only, 136 calls. Would the village be willing to help cover some of it? Trustee Jenkins suggested putting something in the budget. Trustee Vessels and Trustee Trusner would like to cover the entire cost of $ 3536. Motion by Trustee Trusner to issue a check to HPFD for $ 3536 to cover the cost of the emergency calls. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-0.

***Personnel Committee***

*Holiday overtime-*currently says get paid for holiday. Example Mr. Closs was called in on Thanksgiving day and received time and a half; he questioned why isn’t it double time and a half. Treasurer Acree stated it should be double time. Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve / change personnel policy to pay public works employees double time on holidays. Trustee Trusner 2nd. Approved 4 yes, 1 no Trustee Brogan.

*Temporary part time help* – discussed possibly hiring Jeff McKinney to be a 3rd person on call for weekends. Mayor Deverell stated she will need to think about this. Or perhaps hire a 3rd person full time. Jeremy and Jonathon both have 3 weeks vacation this year. Trustee Trusner suggested to hire someone younger that can learn quicker. Trustee Vessels suggested to have Mr. Closs write up the job expectations and what the job would involve.

*Paid Leave of absence PTO-*Attorney discussed. He said everyone is entitled to paid leave , PTO, now in the state of Illinois. Municipalities are not exempt. We can pass an ordinance that applies to personal time off to our employees. He suggested it to be passed tonight so there are no doubts. Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve as ordinance 23-24 paid leave absence to employees. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Roll Call: Trustee Trusner, yes; Trustee Jenkins, yes; Trustee Terry, yes; Trustee Bogan, yes; Trustee Vessels, yes. Approved 5-0.

***Streets and Alleys Committee***

Jonathon Closs will make a list of roads for TIF. Engineers will be at next meeting to discuss sewer consolidation. Committee will have a meeting in February

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***Finance Committee***

Mayor requested they have a meeting.

DCEO Grant - $50,000 – need to decide what we want to spend this money on. They want us to send in grant information asap. Mr. Closs suggested rehab the sewer lift station. Mayor will tell them this; it will not be binding. Trustees are ok with her telling them this. Motion by Trustee Trusner to use DCEO grant to repair sewer lift stations. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-0.

**Ordinance**

*Treasurer position / pay* -still researching. Tabled.

***Water and Sewer Committee***

*Sewer consolidation-* engineer will be at meeting next month.

*URWC update-*The rate increase and expenses was questioned by Illiopolis and Mount Auburn. URWC is planning a meeting in January for anyone to attend. Mayor said she would like to have a water and sewer committee meeting before this meeting; change of plans, decided no water/sewer meeting needed.

***Economic Development***

*Music Bingo-* January 11 at village hall

*Wycklefest-*January 8 community involvement meeting

*Cash Calendar-*very popular.

*Santa Parade-* a lot of people were watching

*Senior Citizen free breakfast-*Calvert Funeral home would like to have this free breakfast here

*Restaurant-*a small restaurant asked the Mayor a few questions. It would be in the location of the small junk stop, down from Pops’ place; have not heard anything more from them

*Enterprise Zone-*tax break for new businesses

*Storage America-*still waiting on IDOT

Motion by Trustee Trusner to adjourn. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Penny J. Allen

Village Clerk