

VILLAGE OF JUSTICE  
7800 ARCHER ROAD, JUSTICE, IL  
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FIRST REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF JULY  
Minutes of Monday, July 13. 2009

Mayor Kris Wasowicz called the Meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Village Clerk Kathy Svoboda called the roll. Present are President Kris Wasowicz, Trustees: Michael Murray, John Fairman, Mary McGee, Kinga Bartoszek and Phil DePaola. Attorney Tom Garrette is present.

**PLEDGE:**

President Wasowicz led the Village Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To move the Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of one or more classes of employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as soon as the scholarships ceremony has concluded.

MOTION: Trustee DePaola so Moves.

SECOND: Trustee Bartoszek

VOTE: Trustees Murray, Fairman, McGee, Bartoszek and DePaola, aye. All ayes.  
Motion passed.

**PRESENTATION:**

Mayor Kris Wasowicz presented the 2009 Scholarship Awards to the winners chosen from among applicants who reside in the Village of Justice and have recently graduated from local high schools.

The 2009 Scholarship Winners are: Matthew Mogielnicki  
Carla Uhlarik  
Kristeen Anthonsen  
Stephanie Richmond  
Dominic Cialoni

In addition to those chosen by the Justice Village Board, Sergeant Mark Krummick presented two scholarships provided by the Justice Fraternal Order of Police.

The Scholarship Winners are: Daniel Leja  
Christina Mikus

Trustee Kinga Bartoszek generously donated \$500.00 to fund one of the scholarships in order for the Village to award five scholarships, rather than the four that were planned for, originally.

(Recess for cake and coffee in honor of the Scholarship Winners was observed.)

**Meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:15 pm. following the recess.**

**Meeting reconvened at 8:30 pm.**

**VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To approve the minutes of the 06/22/09 Regular Board Meeting as submitted or if necessary, as corrected.

MOTION: Trustee Murray so Moves.

SECOND: Trustee Fairman

VOTE: Trustees Murray, Fairman, McGee, Bartoszek and DePaola, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: o approve the appointment of James R. Gabrys to the position of Office/Human Resource Manager effective June 22, 2009 until April 30, 2013.

MOTION: Trustee DePaola so Moves.

SECOND: Trustee Bartoszek

VOTE: Trustees Fairman, McGee, Bartoszek, DePaola and Murray, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To accept the resignation of Trustee Jeffery Kranig from the Justice Village Board.

MOTION: Trustee Murray so Moves.

SECOND: Trustee McGee

VOTE: Trustees McGee, Bartoszek, DePaola, Murray, Kranig and Fairman, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To approve the appointment of George Pastorino to the unexpired term vacated by Trustee Kranig until the next general election in April of 2011.

MOTION: Trustee Murray so Moves.

SECOND: Trustee DePaola

VOTE: Trustees Bartoszek, DePaola, Murray, Fairman and McGee, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To appoint Jerry Carter to the position of Chief of Staff to the Mayor and Board of Trustees for 30 days, or until the position is officially created by ordinance and his appointment is duly approved by the Board of Trustees.

MOTION: Trustee McGee so Moves.

SECOND: Trustee DePaola

VOTE: Trustees DePaola, Murray, Fairman, McGee and Bartoszek, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

**VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT:**

Clerk Svoboda had no formal report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE AND INSURANCE: - Trustee Kinga Bartoszek**

MOTION: Trustee Bartoszek Moves: To approve payables numbers 1-49 in the amount of \$50,382.99 posted for the period of 06/17/2009 – 07/02/2009, plus re-occurring expenses of \$57,052.96, TIF #1 expenses of \$ 459.04, TIF #2 expenses of \$5,635.17, and MFT expenses of \$24,042.57 for a total of \$137,584.11.

SECOND: Trustee McGee

VOTE: Trustees Murray, Fairman, McGee, Bartoszek and DePaola, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

MOTION: Trustee Bartoszek Moves: To approve a Franchise Agreement with Comcast of Illinois IV, incorporating the changes by Attorney Safaa Zarzour.

SECOND: Trustee Murray

VOTE: Trustees Fairman, McGee, Bartoszek, DePaola and Murray, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

Trustee Bartoszek requested that each trustee meet with their respective department heads to explore cost savings measures in all departments. Please review expenses to date so expenses can be clearly projected for the latter part of the year.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES – Trustee John Fairman**

Trustee Fairman reported that Public Works has completed the projects on Maplewood Drive, Amelia Court and Oak Grove at Blackstone Ave. Chipping continues, as usual, based on available staff and weather. We are continuing work on cleaning culverts and installing manholes.

The summer help is concentrating on the cutting of detention ponds and drainage easements.

Vacant and foreclosed properties needing maintenance are being contracted to a landscaping service through the Building Department in order that expenses incurred can be recovered now, or at time of sale.

A resident has reported a problem with a diseased and possibly dead tree. There is a question regarding liability for the tree and Trustee Fairman will investigate further.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY – Trustee Mary McGee**

Trustee McGee quoted a report from Chief Bob Gedville announcing that he Justice Police Department has teamed up with Children’s’ Hospitals of Illinois in their “Be a Buckle Buddy” program.

The program allows for concerned individuals to anonymously report unrestrained or improperly restrained children riding in vehicles. Via a telephone hotline or through a website, [www.bucklebuddy.org](http://www.bucklebuddy.org), individuals can report the license plate number of the vehicle with the improperly restrained child, the law enforcement agency provides the appropriate owners information and a representative of Children’s Hospital will contact the vehicle owner providing useful information and resources for properly restraining the children. The intent is to educate the operator of the vehicle regarding insuring the safety of child passengers.

The Justice Police Department along with Roberts Park Fire Protection District will be conducting a Buckle Buddy, Child Safety Seat Inspection on July 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at the Roberts Park Fire Protection District Station #2, located at the Justice Village Hall. Additional free inspection dates will follow.

Officer Anthony DeBella will participate in a Police and Children Together Camp from July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The camp is sponsored by the Cook County Sheriff’s Department at Camp Sullivan in Oak Forest, IL. The camp is designed to address the lack of positive role models and recreational activities for vulnerable youth.

This year, three children from the community will be participating with Officer DeBella.

This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year of participation in this program.

The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. here at the Village Hall.

The Justice Police Department will be participating in the “2009 National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Lipinski Community Center from 6:00 until 9:00 pm. Additional information will be forthcoming.

## **ADMINISTRATION BUILDING & RECREATION**

Trustee Murray reported that plans for the Fest are coming along nicely. Starting on July 24<sup>th</sup> the Fest Committee will be meeting weekly on Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the all purpose room.

Trustee Murray thanked Mr. Gabrys and his staff for embracing the goals of the board.

**ORDINANCES, LICENSES & PUBLIC PRINTING –Trustee DePaola**

Trustee DePaola stated that he is in the process of reviewing a proposal from the owner of Sammy’s Ice Cream to create a business at the location vacated by Why-Not Hot Dogs. He will be scheduling a meeting with the mayor and board this week to discuss the proposal.

**BUILDING, PLATS AND ZONING – Trustee Mike Murray**

**MOTION:** Trustee Murray k Moves: To suspend all meetings of the Zoning & Planning Commission of the Village of Justice and all costs and expenses pertaining thereto until further action by the Board of Trustees, effective immediately.

**SECOND:** Trustee Fairman

**VOTE:** Trustees McGee, Bartoszek, DePaola, Murray and Fairman, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

Trustee Murray stated that the action to suspend Zoning and Planning Commission Hearings is temporary, until the economy improves and petitioners come forward.

Trustee Murray announced that as of 5:30 pm this evening, the Governor has signed the Capital Bill. In that bill, 5.6 million dollars has been allocated to the Village of Justice for drainage and infrastructure projects, including the flood control project at 75<sup>th</sup> and Cork Ave.

We were notified of the award of a CDBG Grant of around \$60,000.00 to further improve the Thomas Street pond. We are ready to finalize the 79<sup>th</sup> St. and the Roberts Road Sidewalk Projects with IDOT.

Bids were received today for the structural repairs to the Lipinski Center. Only one bid was submitted but that bid was from a reputable and desirable contractor. A decision on that bid will be announced shortly.

Mayor Wasowicz qualified Trustee Murray’s statements regarding the Capital Bill by reminding us that although the Capital Bill was signed, the Appropriation Bill was not signed yet, and is necessary to the awarding of funds for our designated projects.

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Tom Garrette had no report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Clerk Kathy Svoboda stated that she was in receipt of a personal thank you from Ed Rusch and Family for her hosting and supporting the Tax Appeal Seminars presented by Lyons Township Assessor Barbara Weyrick.

The Rusch's were successful in their most recent appeal.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**Committee Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm. and follow consecutively  
Wednesday, July 22. 2009**

**FINANCE & INSURANCE:** Posted payables, possible review of proposals for refuse, recyclables and yard waste pick-up, and other matters before the committee.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Any matters before the committee.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES:** Any matters before the committee.

**ORDINANCES, LICENSES & PUBLIC PRINTING:** Any new business licenses, code amendments or ordinances available for review.

**BUILDING PLATS & ZONING:** Matters before the committee including discussion regarding a proposal for the lease of property for the purpose of erecting billboard signs from Cardinal Outdoor and legislation to approve the bid for the Lipinski center structural repair, with discussion regarding one or two colors on the floor. Issues surrounding grass cutting. .

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING & RECREATION:** Any matters before the committee including a Fest update.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

To discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. (5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1))

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Ed Rusch asked why the Village Board would appoint/hire someone with an entire compensation package of approximately \$70,000.00 per year without taking applications for the position, especially in view of the 9 ½ % unemployment rate.

Mayor Wasowicz replied that we had a very competitive candidate and he is sure we have made a very good deal. The hiring was legal on any level, and since this is a policy position, the hiring was at the discretion of the Mayor and the Board.

Mr. Rusch continued that if the candidate's qualifications were so outstanding they would have held up to some competitive scrutiny.

Mayor Wasowicz added that due to Mr. Gabrys experience as a trustee and a treasurer his learning curve was much shorter and he was able to become effective, immediately.

Mr. Jim Rinkus asked why there were so many closed meetings being conducted by this particular board. What happened to open and transparent government?

Mayor Wasowicz replied that closed meetings are allowed by State Statute and Village Code and when issues are regarding personnel and financial negotiations for and with personnel, discussions must be held privately.

Closed session minutes are being kept and when appropriate, will be released to public scrutiny.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To Adjourn

MOTION: Trustee Fairman so MOVES:

SECOND: Trustee Murray

VOICE VOTE: All ayes.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kathleen M. Svoboda*  
Village Clerk