

# **Village of Donnellson**

*Est. 1897*

## Village Board Meeting Minutes

[www.villageofdonnellson.com](http://www.villageofdonnellson.com)

March 11, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gary Long.

Trustee Gary Long, acting as president, opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.

### **Roll Call Completed:**

Present: Trustees: Fran Jett, Gary Long, John Dankoski, Ken Buckingham, Virginia Kenny. Clerk/Treasurer-Sheryl Reynolds, Clerk-Diane Dankoski. Water Superintendent Bill Grider, Chief of Police-Wayne Watkins, Police Candidate Harley Hedderman.

Absent: President Darrell Jett.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

- Ken Buckingham made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting. John Dankoski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Fran Jett made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; it was seconded by Virginia Kenny. All were in favor.

### **Monthly Bills:**

Clerk/Treasurer Reynolds explained about a set of bill payments that had been lost in the mail from February.

- Fran Jett made a motion to pay the bills; it was seconded by Ken Buckingham. All were in favor.

**Clerk/Treasurer Questions:**

- Reynolds explained a new procedure for renewing CD's at Litchfield Bank. She recommended cashing them in, as they come due, to pay towards loans. Additionally, she recommended removal of the Solar Fund to pay towards loans. After discussion, Acting President Long stated that those funds would remain as is.

**Trustee Concerns:**

- John Dankoski asked about a spring dumpster for village clean-up. Acting President Long deferred the decision until April.

**Water/Sewer Concerns:**

- The Lead Service Line Inventory Grant is proceeding, with the 1<sup>st</sup> payout request made.

**Policies and Practices: None**

**Public Comments: None**

**Roads and Parks:**

- There will be no roadwork in 2024 due to the upcoming water main replacement project.
- Bill Grider reminded the board about the ReBuild Illinois monies, which need to be spent by July 2025. Ken Buckingham suggested road signs needed at intersections. Street signs were also mentioned. Grider stated spending the money on safety is acceptable, and would like to have the final information within 5 months.

**Police:**

- Police Chief Watkins introduced Harley Hedderman as a candidate to replace him when he retires on April 1, 2024. Hedderman discussed his background and experience with the trustees.

**Grants:** None

**Ordinances:** None

**Internal Financial Review:**

- John Dankoski stated that the financial review for February was completed satisfactorily.

**Old Business:**

- The contract with EJ regarding the meter replacement has not been readdressed since early September. Utility Pipe has not responded to the request for information. The trustees discussed illegal use of water and customers entering the meter pits.
- Additional estimates for roof repair have not been received.
- Office staff will meet (digitally) with a representative of the Illinois Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program.

**New Business**

- Virginia Kenny made a motion to hire Harley Hedderman as Chief of Police; it was seconded by Ken Buckingham and passed unanimously.
- Virginia Kenny made a motion to purchase a new body camera for police use; it was seconded by John Dankoski and passed unanimously.
- Regarding the search for a new auditor, Clerk/Treasurer Reynolds warned that the fees may be doubled. It's possible, the village may be able to do a different report.
- CD changes were discussed earlier in the meeting.
- The trustees had received budget recommendations with their board packets. After review, all trustees found it to be acceptable, with the exception of the CD and Solar Fund recommendations.
- Fran Jett made a motion to bypass the purchase of a CD this month. It was seconded by Virginia Kenny, all were in favor.

With no further business to discuss, Ken Buckingham made a motion to adjourn; Fran Jett seconded the motion, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Recorded and submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheryl Reynolds", is written over a horizontal line.

Sheryl Reynolds, Village Clerk/Treasurer