

MEETINGS: 25
NO. OF REGULAR: 24

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW
February 28, 2022 7:00PM**

ROLL CALL: Trustee Hamernik - PR
Trustee Ziemba - PR
Trustee Kucewicz - PR
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - PR
Mayor Peterson - PR

ON A MOTION BY, Trustee Ziemba and seconded by Trustee Kucewicz the February 14, 2022 board meeting minutes were approved.

Pastor Wrigglesworth of Centerpointe Community Church told the board that they are trying to get back to normal since the beginning of the pandemic. They came together as a group and after church, went out to serve the community. Getting back to what church is all about. Having said that he then offered the services of his church to help beautify the Village and offered to spruce up the flowers and things around the new welcome to the Village signs. Mayor Peterson will look into it and let him know. He thanked him for this generous offer.

Public Comment Agenda Items Only:

Paul Sprada, 58 Argus Drive approached the board with a question on what makes up the list of non-domestic animals. Attorney Alba explained that there is a list of them that falls under that category and read a few. He offered to get the local law over to Paul as well. Paul remarked that dogs are service dogs and shouldn't be considered in this. Sam explained, that no, service dogs are service dogs and do not apply here.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION – PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

Deputy Mayor Stempniak, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, the resignation of Planning Board Member Andrew Adolf effective February 28, 2022 is accepted.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Hamernik and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y
Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

APPOINT VILLAGE OF DEPEW TRUSTEE

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I, Mayor Kevin Peterson do hereby appoint Andrew Adolf to the position of Village Trustee to fill the vacancy on the Village Board, said term is to begin effective March 1, 2022 and for the term to expire at noon on April 4, 2022.

APPOINT VILLAGE OF DEPEW DEPUTY MAYOR

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I, Mayor Kevin Peterson do hereby appoint Audrey Hamernik to the position of Village Deputy Mayor to fill the vacancy on the Village Board, said term is to begin effective March 1, 2022 term to expire at noon on the first Monday in April 2022.

**AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING
FOR NON-DOMESTIC ANIMAL LAW – LOCAL LAW # 1 OF 2022**

Trustee Kucewicz, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Administrator is hereby authorized to advertise for a public hearing to discuss the non-domestic animal law, Local Law #1 of 2022. The public hearing will be held on March 28, 2022 at 7 PM in the Council Chambers, Village Hall, 85 Manitou St, Depew, NY 14043.

The forgoing resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Stempniak, and **CARRIED**.

AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS – SENIOR CENTER HVAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Deputy Mayor Stempniak offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Administrator is hereby authorized to advertise for bids for the Senior Center HVAC improvement project. The bid opening will take place on March 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Hamernik, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y
Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN PENFLEX AUTHORIZATION FORM FOR 2021 SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

Trustee Hamernik, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Kevin Peterson and Board of Trustees are authorized to sign the 2021 Service Award Program Administration Form and after the 30 day period forward to Penflex, Inc for the purpose of administering the 2021 Service Award Program for Depew Firefighters.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Stempniak, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y
Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

PERMISSION – POLICE TRAINING

Trustee Ziemba, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS, Permission is hereby granted to Alek Wojciechowicz to attend the April 2022 Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Certification Training. The training will commence on Monday, April 25th, 2022 at the Warren J. Rathke Public Safety Training Facility, 5574 Niagara Street Ext, Lockport, NY 14094. This phase of the training will end on Friday, May 6th, 2022. The classroom instruction will begin promptly at 9:00 AM. Use of Village vehicle is permitted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The above foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Hamernik and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y

Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

PERMISSION – POLICE CONFERENCE

Trustee Kucewicz, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS, Permission is hereby granted to PO Tim Stranc, PO Brad Jones, and PO Chris Keib to attend annual NYTOA Law Enforcement Training Conference, April 26-29 in Verona NY. Use of Village vehicle is permitted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The above foregoing resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Stempniak and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y
Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

PERMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – DEPEW FIRE DEPARTMENT – JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

Trustee Hamernik, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, membership is hereby granted to the following in the Depew Fire Department pending the passing of their physicals:

Junior Firefighter's

Dylan Anzalone
Sophia Hill
Cory J. Peterson

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Stempniak, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y
Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

PERMISSION – DEPEW FIRE DEPT

Trustee Ziemba, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

Permission is hereby granted to the Aetna Hose Company to hold its Annual Company Installation Dinner on Saturday April 9, 2022 from 5 PM – 12 AM.

And

Permission is hereby granted to the Aetna Hose Company to hold its Annual Chicken BBQ Fundraiser on Saturday June 4, 2022 from 7 AM – 10 PM.

And

Permission is hereby granted to the Aetna Hose Company to hold its Company Children's and Member's Holiday Party on Saturday December 10, 2022 from 10 AM – 12 AM.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Kucewicz and **CARRIED**.

MODIFY 2021/2022 BUDGET

Deputy Mayor Stempniak, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Administrator is hereby authorized to modify the 2021/2022 Budget in the following manner:

Revenues – 10.4 2770 Unclassified Revenue - \$34,010.00
Expenditures – 10.5.3120.298 – Police Vehicles

The following resolution was seconded by Trustee Hamernik and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y
Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

WAGE PAYMENTS – NON- UNION

Trustee Hamernik, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

Whereas, the Union contract has been settled that non – union confidential employee’s and management similarly follow

and

Whereas, the Mayor and the board of trustee wish to give these non-union employees their raises along the same guideline of the settled contracts

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Administrator is authorized to give these non –union employees increase along the same guidelines as the settled contract.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Stempniak, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y
Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

RETRO WAGE PAYMENTS

Deputy Mayor Stempniak, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Administrator is authorized to pay retro wage payments to the following non union employees at the rate increase of 1% for June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021 and 1% for June 1, 2021 – March 3, 2022. The following titles are to be paid the retro due for the period above and their current salary adjusted for the wage increase: Confidential Clerk – Typist and PT Confidential Account Clerk Police.

And

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Administrator is authorized to pay retro wage payments to the following non union employees at the rate increase 1% for June 1, 2021 – March 3, 2022. The following title is to be paid the retro due for the period above

and their current salary adjusted for the wage increase for Village Administrator and the Secretary to the Mayor.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Hamernik, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y
Trustee Ziemba - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y
Mayor Peterson - Y

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS – N/A

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS –

CEO Bielefeld announced that he is very happy to have new Assistant Code Officer, Craig Blanchard, on board. They were already making progress on his first day, which was today.

Mayor Peterson asked Craig to say a few words to introduce himself: Craig thanked the board for the opportunity and said he is looking forward to get started here and to work with Don. He has been in construction and he came to us from Lancaster. He has a 7 month old daughter at home and it is great coming home to her every day and being able to spend time with her.

Chief Miller -

Our department and our officers are doing a great job.

The safety of the public is our highest priority and we are committed to ensuring all our residents feel safe in this village. Please keep all our officers in your prayers as they continue to keep this community safe.

The Chief from Cheektowaga PD, Lancaster PD and I had an opportunity to meet with assembly member Wallace last week and we discussed criminal justice reform and how it affects our communities – she was very receptive to our concerns, we discussed the State Chiefs legislative proposal and how our departments and our community have been affected by criminal justice reforms. So, I thank her for giving us her time to discuss these important issues.

We continue to review and update all our department policies and procedures to assure that we applying best practices throughout our organization.

We continue to modernize this department and improving our officers through training and professional development

And as always - I want to thank the public for their support and encourage anyone to call us if they think they have been a victim of a crime or observes something strange. We are here to help and we can't do that if you don't call us to make us aware of a problem

Please remember to lock your cars and secure valuables. Don't leave your vehicle running unattended and never leave your keys in your car.

Attorney Alba did not have much from legal but said the search and survey on the property on Sanilac will hopefully be completed soon as Joe Keefe is working on it for the Village. The Village received a few FOIL requests but they were pretty standard.

Rec Director Ferguson reported that there is about 6 weeks left at the rink. Regals are on the ice 7 days a week. Some teams that are no longer in playoffs, etc need the ice. He is going to begin selling blocks of their unused ice time to people who wish to have birthday parties there. It will be \$200 per hour with free skate rentals. Summer activities are lined up as well, basketball, softball, kickball, etc. He will also have floor hockey in the rink once it's cleaned up.

Superintendent of Public Works said the guys are working on cutting trees, salting when needed and also working on finishing up the work in the Code department.

Trustee Ziembra asked everyone to keep the people of Ukraine in your thoughts!

Trustee Kucewicz Thanked Deputy Mayor Erica for her years of work on the board and she wishes her all the luck in everything going forward. She also welcomed new Ass't CEO Craig and newly appointed Trustee Andrew Adolf, and told him she looks forward to working with him.

Trustee Hamernik thanked Erica as well and told her she has enjoyed working with her for the last 3 years. She thanked her for all of her work she's done over the years like getting the Tree Board up and running! She thanked the Fire Department for coming to do a walk through at the community center. Told everyone we should be very proud of our department, they have 14 people just recruited! Great Job!!!!

Trustee Hamernik also read a statement:

She is honored to accept the position of Deputy Mayor! She wanted to thank the Mayor for the opportunity to serve as Deputy Mayor. She said they all have a roll to play in building a better tomorrow for our community and she promises to continue the progress that is being make in the Village!

Mayor Peterson told Erica that he first remembers working with her on the Tax Reform party in 2017, then running together when he, Ed and she ran for office together. He thanked her for her all 3 years of efforts!

1st Assistant Fire Chief Gauthier explained that the training the fire department just completed from the NYS Chief's Association was fantastic. A total of 44 firemen were there to complete the training. A lot goes into planning for this type of training. They may look to use another facility next year, that isn't certain, but they will look into it. It has to have a lot of amenities for all people who take the training. He did the training himself and even with all the years in the department, he got a lot out of it. This type of a course can help firemen stay safe and importantly, help them to help the community and save lives.

Mayor Peterson read a few communications that he received that do not usually get the press that they deserve:

On 2/7 a dog had been hit around 6pm and Officer Canna was on duty. He was able to get to the scene and waited until the owner showed up to get the animal to a hospital for treatment.

On 2/3, an EMS call came in from a daughter who was concerned about checking on her mother, Office Keib arrived and was able to make a forced entry in order for her to get in because she did not have a key to the home. When the responders were en-route, he shoveled a path for them to make an easier entrance into the home.

Mayor Peter ended the meeting by asking everyone to keep everything going on over-seas in their thoughts. It's very sad to see this happen and people be injured. He hopes that the situation is resolved rather quickly to end the loss of life there.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OR CONCERNS – N/A

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

ON A MOTION BY Trustee Hamernik and seconded by Trustee Ziembra, the following claims are to be paid: \$421,162.32 General, \$1,520.28 Capital Projects and \$422,682.40 Capital was **CARRIED**.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION BY Trustee Hamernik and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stempniak the meeting was adjourned with a moment of silence for the citizens of Ukraine at 7:55 **PM**. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Wachowiak
Village Administrator