

**VILLAGE OF MACHESNEY PARK, ILLINOIS**  
**HELD IN THE FRANK G. BAUER MUNICIPAL HALL**  
*Journal of Proceedings ~ Regular Meeting, December 3, 2018*

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 PM by Mayor Steve Johnson. Winnebago County Sheriff's Chaplain Jesus Cavello gave the Invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Cub Scout Pack #411 Rich Swenson, Leader.

Present: Mayor Steve Johnson, Trustees Joe Seipts, Jake Schmidt, James Kidd, Aaron Wilson, Terri Bailey and Erick Beck

Present: Village Clerk Lori Mitchell  
Village Treasurer Bradley Robison  
Village Attorney Tom Green  
Village Administrator Tim Savage  
Community Development Director James Richter II  
Finance and Human Resource Manager Michelle Johannsen  
Public Works Superintendent Chad Hunter  
Village Engineer Chris Dopkins  
Student Liaison Hannah Herrera  
Public Safety Supervisor Lt. Pete Dal Pra

The Journal of Proceedings for the Regular Board Meeting from November 19, 2018 was approved per typewritten copies submitted by the Clerk on a motion by Trustee Seipts and seconded by Trustee Bailey. Motion carried by voice vote.

1. Minutes Approved

*Village Treasurer Bradley Robison presented the Treasurer's Report showed that the Village received Motor Fuel Tax Funds of \$77,840.46 and Build Machesney Roads Funds of \$335,879.91. As of November 26, 2018, the report indicates the total of all funds as \$13,590,345.40. A copy of the treasurer's report is available at the back of the room. A motion was made by Trustee Wilson and seconded by Trustee Bailey to accept the Treasurer's Report and place it on file for audit. Motion carried by voice vote.*

2. Treasurer's Report

*Clerk Mitchell reported that in addition to Trustee Seipts having a birthday today, the State of Illinois celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of becoming the 21<sup>st</sup> state in the Union. Happy Birthday, Illinois!*

3. Communications

*The Holiday Lighting Contest is in full swing and residents are encouraged to call Village Hall with the addresses of nominations of homes you believe beautify the neighborhood. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the December 17 Board Meeting.*

*Lastly, Clerk Mitchell introduced Debbie Nau, Executive Director of Parks Chamber of Commerce who presented prizes from the Light up the Parks Parade for the best Youth Group to Harlem High School for their Polar Express and the Machesney Park Best Lit Home on the Parade Route to the Allen's at 8553 Elm Avenue.*

*Waiving the rules for Public Comment, Clerk Mitchell introduced the following individuals who spoke to the Board regarding their concerns and possible solutions suggested for remediating flood damage in the Village:*

- *Preston Fadness, Ventura Blvd*
- *Steve Lucas, Rock River Homeowners Association*
- *Kathy Miller, 8430 Shore Drive*
- *Alan Dahlmeyer, 8101 Beach Drive on the west side of the river*
- *Barry Paye, Ventura Blvd.*
- *Susan Allen, 8051 Old River Road (owns home on Shore Drive)*

*Mayor Johnson thanked the audience and those who provided input.*

Trustee Seipts presented the warrant in the amount of \$1,686,191.78 and moved for its authorization; seconded by Trustee Wilson. Motion approved. On roll call: 6 ayes (Trustees Seipts, Schmidt, Kidd, Wilson, Bailey and Beck), 0 nays, 0 absent

4. Warrant/Approved

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

*The Board allowed time for the members of the audience who were exiting the Board Room to leave.*

*Mayor Johnson reported he toured the new Mercy Hospital which will open the first week in January 2019. He also reported the Village is conducting its Toy Drive again this year. He asked residents to bring new, unwrapped toys to Village Hall by December 7. He reminded residents of the Night to Bethlehem Live Nativity at Riverside Community Church on December 8-9 from 6-9 p.m. No charge for this event .*

*Mayor Johnson presented Pastor Jared Kemp from North Park Church of Christ (host of Helping Hands Pantry) with a check for their food pantry. Pastor Kemp thanked the Village for its continued support of the Helping Hands Pantry Toy Drive that has been happening for the last ten years. About the Pantry, he reported that they serve over 300 families each month, providing groceries and more. He said the toy gift shop that is hosted along with the Village of Machesney Park at Christmas is an added bonus for families who cannot otherwise afford Christmas presents.*

*Attorney Tom Green had no report this evening.*

*Village Administrator Tim Savage reported he had provided the Board with a summary of responses addressing the concerns of the individuals who were present this evening. Since most of them have left, he suggested that going forward we do a real River Flooding Meeting, inviting the National Weather Service Forecaster referenced in Mr. Pane's speech who can give us some information first-hand.*

*Tim referenced facts that the forecaster provided this afternoon when he talked with him. With the current river level, the flows that we have had coming through this season are unprecedented. We have a record amount of water coming through right now at Machesney Park and over the dam. The year in total since January 1, 2018, has seen more rain than any year. We would have to go back in the 1950's to find as much flow and volume coming through Winnebago County as there has been this year. We all share the concerns that were expressed here this evening. If any of the Village had a way to mitigate the flooding, we would be doing it. He said the Village works closely with the Sheriff's Department and the operation of the dam now that the County since the beginning of the year, has had input into the operation of the opening and closing of gates. He further reported that the operation of the dam is not pegged to the alert levels that are on the gauge as was referenced. It is assessed on a daily basis when we know the rain is coming and the river is coming up, it is adjusted accordingly, not waiting for the nine foot, but whatever foot level the gauge says the river is at before adjusting the gates.*

*One of the other facts that Mr. Lincoln shared with him was that if you had closed the gates completely when we had our recent flooding, the river would have increased in height of about three inches. That gives you a little indication the impact of the dam at flood stage. It has a much greater impact at lower levels.*

*Again he suggested there be a real River Flooding Meeting scheduled to get the correct information out so as to dispel misinformation.*

*Finance and HR Manager Michelle Johannsen had no report this evening.*

*Community Development Director James Richter II had no report this evening.*

*Public Works Superintendent Chad Hunter had no report this evening.*

*Village Engineer Chris Dopkins had no report this evening.*

5. Administrative Reports

6. Mayor's Report

7. Attorney's Report

8. Village Administrator

9. Finance/HR Manager

10. Comm. Dev Director

11. Pub Works Supt

12. Village Engineer

*Student Liaison Hannah Herrera reported that they had a toy drive at Harlem High School last week. They collected money and on Sunday, they went to Target and shopped. They spent approximately \$5,000 on toys for children in the community. It was a very rewarding experience.*

13. Student Liaison

*In addition, this past weekend was the beginning of the dance and cheer teams competition. The Dance Team got first place at the Oak Forest High School and the Cheer Team placed seventh at Crystal Lake.*

*Public Safety Supervisor, Lt. Pete Dal Pra reported that during the month of November, the Sheriff's Police in Machesney Park made 1,259 community contacts, deputies made 481 traffic stops where they issued 197 traffic citations, nine of which were DUIs. Deputies also located and tagged 26 inoperable vehicles during the past month.*

14. Pub Safety Supervisor

#### COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEE REPORTS

15. Committee Reports

*District #1 Trustee Seipts, Administration and Finance Committee Chairman reported the A&F Committee met this evening and recommended approval of Warrants and two resolutions that are on tonight's agenda with a positive recommendation.*

16. District #1 Report

*District #2 Trustee Schmidt, Public Improvement and Safety Chairman had no report this evening.*

17. District #2 Report

*District #3 Trustee Kidd, Public Improvement and Safety Vice-Chairman, (after Trustee Wilson's report): 1) Accountability by Elected Officials includes himself and if he needs to hold himself to a higher standard, he has no problem doing that. He thinks that starts with the Village President and himself as an Elected Official. 2) He is proud of the fact that he volunteers as a coach for Harlem's Wrestling and Football teams. He is proud that he sometimes has to miss a meeting because of his volunteerism in the community. Others should be proud of their volunteerism, also. 3) Next, Skinach is the same firm that missed years of mismanagement from the Winnebago County Board with Scott Christianson and the "Sonagate." He thinks it is important that a fresh set of eyes over books and materials is a fresh set of eyes. 4) The Police Contract. He said he is sure Trustee Wilson is satisfied with his communication with Tim. Sometimes he calls Tim and has to wait for three or four days for a returned call. He is glad Tr. Wilson gets his attention three or four times a day. Further, he said he asked for copies of the Police Contract and how it was going and yet the Attorney, Village President and Village Administrator refused to give him a copy of the documentation that he wanted to oversee. When he asks for information, he expects to get it.*

18. District #3 Report

*District #4 Trustee Wilson, Administrative and Finance Vice-Chairman, reported that at our last meeting there were questions brought up by Trustee Kidd that Trustee Wilson wanted to get out the real answers to the questions he asked and accusations against our Village. He apologized for tonight's lengthy report.*

19. District #4 Report

- 1) Trustee Accountability and Meeting Attendance: Attendance that included Board Meetings and Board Retreats for budget issues over the last two years. There were a total of 48 meetings and most Trustees performed at 90% and above as far as the Trustee accountability and attending meetings. Trustee Beck and Trustee Kidd fall at the 79% level, so together during the last two years, they both missed ten meetings. (Later he noted that the Mayor has not missed one meeting.)*
- 2) There was also a question about having our Village President required to work 25 hours a week: The Mayor is a full-time pharmacist, he likes to spend time at his second home out of the area and he spends a lot of time at functions representing the Village and activities within the Village. There is also a lot of technology that enables the Mayor to be in total touch with the Village administration and Board; and he is known for returning phone*

*calls. Trustee Wilson stated he believes the Mayor is working at least 25 hours a week. If he is working 25 hours a week, at \$47,000 it boils down to \$36.15/hour.*

- 3) It was asked that we show all the salaries for the different employees – That happens during the first phase of the Budget Retreat and it has for quite some time. It happened on May 1, 2014. Those salaries were listed in each one of the Budget Retreats. He pointed out that the Trustee that asked that question was not at our first Budget Retreat last go around.*
- 4) There was also a question about having an itemized report on any expenditures of the Village Administrator under \$20,000: There is a section in the A&F Committee called “Warrant.” We also have that during the Board Meeting. That happens every time we have a meeting. There is a Warrant listing all expenditures of the Village. We also have an annual Treasurer’s Report which lists every Vendor and the total amount paid to them during the fiscal year. Trustee Wilson showed the budgets paperwork he has received during his tenure as Trustee. He receives them in paper form and electronically. Any question he would have is very easily answered as the Board receives it in draft form, then final form, posted on the Village website and recorded with the County Clerk’s Office. With the amount of information that the Village staff provides the Board, it is difficult to believe we don’t have enough information because the Staff is very receptive to providing information sometimes within a day’s notice. Just to give you an idea of how this works: We get our packets on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. So we have Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday to review our packets and pose any questions to the Staff. They are very good at getting us information and in a timely fashion. He pointed out the warrant and the information the Board receives every two weeks. The warrant passes with no questions every time. He showed a Treasurer’s Report which Treasurer Robison does a great job with.*
- 5) There was a question about the accounting firm we use for Village Audits, Sikich. They do an extremely good job and so does the Village. We have won awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards, two years running and we are up for it again. To insinuate that there could be some type of issues with our budget process and the company that does our auditing; those are pretty big awards to go up against. Just to give you an idea where these awards come from, the Government Finance Officers Association was established in 1906 it represents public finance officials throughout the United States and Canada, 19,400. In order to receive the awards that are displayed on the screen, the governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as policy document, operations guide, financial plan, communications device. The Village has received this award two subsequent years. The Village of Machesney Park is one of 1,576 governmental units to receive this award (out of 19,400). The staff is doing a fine job. Information on the accounting/audit firm: Sikich is one of the top 35 public service accounting firms. They ranked 27<sup>th</sup> national in 2017 by Accounting Today. They have 7,900 clients, more than 450 counties, cities, villages, towns and other governmental bodies. Our Resolution 48-R-17 approved a three-year contract with Sikich. We will be going out for proposal upon expiration. In the Trustee opinion, they do a fine job and there are a lot of eyes looking over our budget.*
- 6) Trustee Wilson noted that another question that was brought up was communication of the Police Contract: No, an AdHoc Committee did not come to fruition, but as a Trustee he found no hardship in receiving information and communication from the Mayor, the Village Administrator about those ongoing negotiations. Sometimes he talks to the Village Administrator two or three times a day. There is an open line of communication.*

*Wilson noted that was all he had, but he felt there needed to be some clarification to some of the accusations that were brought up at the last meeting. Further, he is proud of our Village Staff.*

*District #5 Trustee Bailey, Planning and Economic Development Chairperson, reported that the Planning and Economic Development Committee met this evening and recommend approval of three items that will be on the December 17 Board Agenda with positive recommendations.*

*District #6 Trustee Beck, Planning and Economic Development Vice-Chairman, had no report this evening.*

CONSENT AGENDA\* - Mayor Johnson noted that the next item is the Consent Agenda. He asked Staff to introduce all items to be considered under the Consent Agenda.

*Village Administrator Tim Savage presented the items as follows:*

- A. Ordinance 36-18, Class "B" Liquor License, BP, 11225 N. Second Street and Increase Number of "B" Licenses, Second Reading
- B. Resolution 63-R-18, Authorize Execution of Intergovernmental Grant Agreement with IL Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)
- C. Resolution 64-R-18, Authorize Execution of Reimbursement Agreement with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

21. District #6 Report

22. Consent Agenda

Ord 36-18  
Res 63-R-18  
Res 64-R-18/Passed

Mayor Johnson asked if there were items a Trustee would like removed from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately. There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately. The Consent Agenda was accepted as presented.

Mayor Johnson called for a motion to approve all items under the Consent Agenda. The motion was made by Trustee Beck and seconded by Trustee Bailey. The motion was approved by roll call vote: 7 ayes (Trustees Seipts, Schmidt, Kidd, Wilson, Bailey, Beck and Mayor Johnson), 0 nays, 0 absent

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

23. Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS - None

24. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT:

25. Public Comment

Resident Janine Neuswander, 9936 Shore Drive, asked how to find out about any meetings.

J Neuswander

Trustee Kidd posed questions to the Village Administrator which were ruled out of order.

Trustee Kidd

Resident Erick Hoff, 9920 Shore Drive, addressed the Board noting that Steve Lucas does not represent the Rock River Homeowners. If the river goes up or if the river goes down, Steve Lucas makes money.

Erick Hoff

Resident Preston Fadness, 11204 Ventura asked who controls the no-wake zone and how it is possible to go up stream when the river is moving at 12 MPH without making a wake. That is impossible.

Preston Fadness

CLOSED SESSION: None

26. Closed Session

Trustee Bailey moved to adjourn; seconded by Trustee Schmidt. Motion approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

27. Adjourn

APPROVED:

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Lori J. Mitchell, MMC  
Village Clerk

BOARD MEETING – FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY AT 6:00 PM EXCEPT WHEN A HOLIDAY FALLS ON A BOARD MEETING MONDAY, THE MEETING IS RESCHEDULED FOR THE TUESDAY AFTER THAT HOLIDAY.

Administration and Finance Committee – First and Third Monday @ 5:45 PM prior to a regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

Planning and Economic Development Comm.- First Monday of each month at 5:30 PM

Public Improvements and Safety Comm. - Third Monday of each month at 5:30 PM

Planning and Zoning Commission – Fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 PM

These minutes are not official unless signed and sealed by the Village Clerk.