

Village of Almena
Regular Village Board Meeting - Minutes
January 9, 2024 • 7:00 PM

President Gabe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Trustees: Hellmann, Jensen, Pichelman, Rockow, Roff, Tomczik. Also present: Police Chief Posey, Fire Chief Wohlk, Public Works Director Becker, Clerk/Treasurer Bauer, Guest John Mitchell and 9 citizens

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 Regular Board Meeting: Pichelman, Second: Rockow, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

Public Comments: None to report

Police Report: Chief Posey provided a summary of calls. Speed enforcement continues on Clinton St; three domestic calls in town; two drug arrests; minimal service calls in the last month

Public Works Report: **1)** Heater in wellhouse two went down and needed repair **2)** Lift station on Prospect Ave having issues **3)** Soo Ave W lift station issues caused damage to the pump **4)** Continue installing new meters – 61 left to convert

Clerk/Treasurer Report: **1)** Approve claims dated December 12, 2023 – January 8, 2024; Check #3309 thru #3368 as presented and summarized. Motion to approve claims as submitted: Tomczik, Second: Hellmann; All in favor. **Motion carried.** **2)** Auditors will be on-site week of January 29th **3)** No February primary will be needed **4)** Simplified Rate Case has been submitted to PSC for 8% increase effective 4/1/24 **5)** Ehlers to begin working on Convention Water Rate Case and wanted to confirm target date and whether to include Fire Protection charge. Motion to target water rate increase date of 1/1/2025 and include Fire Protection charge: Jensen; Second: Hellmann. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Village President Report: **1)** New dump truck is still expected to delivery in January **2)** Vacant lot sale approved at December board meeting will be a 50' lot as the parcel is already divided into 50' lots

Old Business:

1) Discussed Pioneer Village Welcome Center project with John Mitchell. Motion to make a one-time donation of \$1,000 and provide a letter of support: Tomczik; Second: Jensen. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

1) A CD investment is maturing 2/12/2024, prior to the next board meeting. Discussed reinvestment options at various terms and rates. Motion to re-invest principal plus interest in a 6-month CD (current rates are 5.22%): Hellmann; Second: Tomczik, All in favor. **Motion carried**

2) Discussed the review of ordinance Chapter 135: Fires and Fire Prevention. Fire Chief Wohlk expressed concern that municipalities served by the Fire District have some conflicting ordinance language and suggested review to be delayed until after the next Fire Board meeting in April. Board agreed, ordinance review tabled.

3) Reviewed Resolution 2024-1 Hazard Mitigation Plan approval. The adoption of the plan will meet the prerequisite requirements for FEMA grant dollars for hazard mitigation projects. Motion to approve Resolution 2024-1 Approving An All Hazard Mitigation Plan: Hellmann; Second: Pichelman; All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn: No further business. Motion to adjourn: Jensen; Second: Roff; All in favor. **Motion carried.**