

## Village of Ripley Special Council Meeting October 13 at 6:30 pm

The Village of Ripley's Council met on July 25, 2023, at the Community Building for a special council meeting. Present were Council Members Charles Poole, Howard McClain, Scott Eagan, Alvin Wallace, Tiffany Regenstein and Nicole Hedges. Mayor Nowana Bingaman, Village Administrator Wayne Gates and Solicitor Nick Owens were also in attendance.

Mayor Bingaman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Mrs. Regenstein offered prayer.

Mayor Bingaman opened the meeting with a statement drafted by Solicitor Owens. She stated that "the special council meeting was called after significant job performance issues were discovered regarding the Fiscal Officer Amber Ackley's employment performance. As a result, a recent employment review was conducted by the mayor and council. As a result of this review, the fiscal officer was placed on paid administrative leave on Wednesday, October 11. The fiscal officer was placed on paid instead of nonpaid administrative leave upon the legal recommendation of the village solicitor. As a result of the fiscal officer being placed on administrative leave, we will be appointing an interim fiscal officer this evening and also taking other actions if necessary. The review of the fiscal officer's job performance is an ongoing process and it will be addressed publicly by the mayor and council at the next regularly scheduled meeting on October 24, 2023."

Mayor Bingaman noted that herself and Ackley were the only individuals authorized to access village bank accounts and asked council to approve Village Administrator Wayne Gates and Acting Fiscal Officer Natalie Newberry as authorized users of the village bank accounts. Council Member Eagan so moved and Council Member McClain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

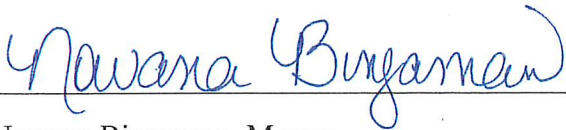
Mayor Bingaman noted that the mayor's court funds, current grant funding and outstanding USDA loans would be reviewed by Heather Hauke. Mrs. Newberry will review the work in the fiscal office.

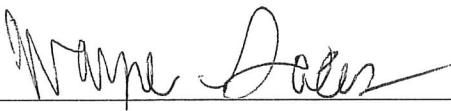
Village Solicitor Owens recommended that Mrs. Newberry be appointed as Acting Fiscal Officer by council. The motion was made by Council Member Eagan and seconded by Council Member McClain. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Poole then made a motion to hire Heather Hauke as a contract employee to monitor Mayor's Court, USDA Loans and grant applications. Motion seconded by Council Member Wallace. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor Owens noted that Ackley had been placed on paid administrative leave on October 13 instructed her to return all village property and not to access any village property or electronic files without the permission of Mayor Bingaman.

Council Member Eagan moved for adjournment. Seconded by Council Member Wallace. Motion carried unanimously.

  
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Nowana Binagman, Mayor  
10/19/23  
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Date

  
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Wayne Gates, Village Administrator  
10/19/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date