VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE

"A Great Place to Call Home"

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 - 7:00 PM

200 N. Hill Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Don Sattler

ROLL CALL
PRESENT

President Don Sattler
Finance Chairman Eric Miller
Admin Chairman Ron Quimby
Trustee Jeff Goings
Trustee Ed Wethington
Trustee Dan Cheek
Clerk Karri Anderberg
Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski
Deputy Clerk Katie Jaster
Public Works Director Mitch Hilden
Treasurer Carina Boyd
Engineer Chris Dopkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF PHONE PARTICIPATION (Roll Call)
No Phone Participation

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Voice Vote)
Motion made by Trustee Wethington, Seconded by Finance Chairman Miller. Motion passed by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Voice Vote)

1. Motion to approve Board of Trustee minutes from May 19, 2021
   Motion made by Trustee Wethington, Seconded by Admin Chairman Quimby. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT *Public Comment is encouraged. The Village Board will receive comments from the public, pursuant to State Statutes. Comments will be limited to five minutes on topics relating to the Village of Poplar Grove. Be further advised that matters brought up at this time may be referred to the appropriate committee or individual for further discussion or consideration.*

Becky Gratz- Wants to know how much in grant money the Village got for Park and Main and why it was not used for the drainage behind her house like she was told. Mrs. Gratz want the drainage fixed behind oak street. Also the sidewalks in Sherman needs to be addressed and needs to be fixed.

Richard Zenanek - Wants to know what is being done about the drainage issue on behind Oak Street.

David O'Donnell - Wants to know if the Village President is going to take the park issue to court. Mr. O'Donnell is does not want his tax dollars wasted

Anonymous - Is for the Village putting a park on the Saratoga lots. Does not want the park in retention areas. is concerned for the safety of the children if the park is put in the retention area.

PROCLAMATION

2. Pride Month Proclamation
   President Don Sattler presented a proclamation in honor of pride month to Rev Frank Langholf, President of PFLAG Rockford

ADMINISTRATION & ZONING, TRUSTEE QUIMBY

3. Motion to approve **Resolution 21-21** a resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois approving a registration and waiver of liability form for the dog park
   Motion made by Admin Chairman Quimby, Seconded by Finance Chairman Miller.
   Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

4. Motion to approve **Resolution 21-36** a resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois approving rules for the village dog park.
   Motion made by Admin Chairman Quimby, Seconded by Trustee Goings.
   Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

5. Motion to approve **Ordinance 21-17** An ordinance of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois amending various provisions of Title 1- Administration of the Village's code of ordinances, amending responsibility of nomination and appointment of Village Committee Chairpersons from the Village President to the Village Board of Trustees.

Motion made by Admin Chairman Quimby, Seconded by Finance Chairman Miller.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

6. Motion to approve **Ordinance 21-18** an ordinance of the Village of Poplar Grove authorizing the disposal of certain personal property owned by the Village of Poplar Grove
Motion made by Admin Chairman Quimby, Seconded by Trustee Wethington.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

7. Motion to approve Trustee appointment Dean Svarc
Motion made by Admin Chairman Quimby, Seconded by Finance Chairman Miller.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek
Motion made by Admin Chairman Quimby, Seconded by Trustee Goings to table the Trustee Appointment of Dean Svarc to July 12, 2021 at 630pm
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

FINANCE AND PUBLIC WORKS, TRUSTEE MILLER

8. Motion to approve **Ordinance 21-14** an ordinance of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois approving and authorizing the Village to enter into a first amendment to third renewal to lease agreement for the real property located at 100 S. State Street, Poplar Grove, Illinois
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Goings.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

9. Motion to approve **Ordinance 21-16** an ordinance of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois amending the Municipal code by amending title IV - public ways and property, chapter 1- streets, sidewalks and public ways, section 6-1A-1 - construction requirements and specifications
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Wethington.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

10. Motion to approve **Resolution 21-37** a resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois approving quote from Dorner Company
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Admin Chairman Quimby.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

11. Motion to approve **Resolution 21-38** a resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove resolving to award a construction contract for the Park Street/Main Street drainage improvements
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Wethington.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

12. Motion to approve **Resolution 21-39** a resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove resolving to award a construction for the West Grove Park improvements
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Admin Chairman Quimby.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

13. Motion to approve **Resolution 21-40** a resolution for maintenance under the Illinois highway code
14. Motion to approve **Resolution 21-41** a resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove resolving to award a construction contract for section number 21-00000-000-GM, 2021 Pavement Maintenance Program
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Goings.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

15. Motion to approve check disbursement in the amount of $194,113.45 in AP checks, $12,219.22 in Insurance Expense checks, and $7,853.15 in EFTS for a total of $214,185.82.
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Wethington.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

NEW BUSINESS

16. Motion to approve the removal of Jason Vodnasky as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner
Motion made by Admin Chairman Quimby, Seconded by Trustee Wethington.
President Sattler passed out the FB post and comments made by Mr. Vodnasky.
President Sattler stated he feels Mr. Voddnasky was attacking him and has chosen to remove Mr. Vodnasky from Planning and Zoning
Attorney Sosnowski spoke to the Village Board as to the why this item was in front of them and the legal issue at hand with it.
Trustee Goings - asked for President Sattler's resignation as he feels Sattler's has attacked himself and fellow residents on social media.
Trustee Miller has asked for his remarks to be put on record in their entirety
Mr. President, thank you for bringing the situation with Mr. Vodnansky to the board’s attention. I understand the actions that you took in removing Mr. Vodnansky from the

Planning & Zoning Commission. The level of vitriol and divisiveness that has permeated all levels of politics is questionable and distracts from the real work that needs to be done to uplift and improve the lives of the residents that elected us into these positions of trust. That is the true essence of servant leadership, and it is the ideals that the board and myself operate by each and every day.

The issue of sex crimes against children is one of the most heinous crimes that any person can commit. Any accusation or insinuation that someone has committed a crime against children is wrong and a lack of judgment, unless there is evidence that proves the accusation or insinuation. Having reviewed the Facebook comment that you cite as evidence for Mr. Vodnansky's removal, although the comment does not reference you specifically and directly call you a pedophile, I believe that you made the inference that he was referring to you. I find Mr. Vodnansky's comment in poor taste, and one that contributes to the vitriol that we see in politics today.

However, since we are talking tonight about removing an appointed official from his seat as a Planning & Zoning Commissioner, I would be remise in my evaluation of the situation if I did not make mention of other comments that have been made by you Mr. President that rises to the same level of adding to the vitriol and divisiveness that has rooted itself in our community over the past 9 months. Most recently, I was in a meeting with you on the proposed Mansfield Park. During the course of that meeting, you made an accusation, in the presence of one of our village attorneys, that I was harassing and intimidating residents as it related to the park issue. Your only justification for such accusations was an email that I was copied on. You had no additional evidence of any email, social media post or other written evidence that supported your accusations. For a sitting, elected official to make these comments about a fellow elected official is a similar lack of judgment, as one could infer from those comments that I have engaged in official misconduct. I take exception to such accusations.

On February 7, 2021, you posted on Facebook that "Our current Village President Looks the other way while being bought off by outside builders and outside realtors. Quid-Pro-Quo and Pay-To-Play it is called in Illinois." The United States Supreme Court has said that campaign contributions are federally protected speech in the Buckley case. Using terms like quid pro quo and pay to play suggests that President Costanza engaged in corrupt and/or nefarious activities as it relates to the performance of his everyday duties as village president. As you have become aware of in the past 60 days, the village president has no ability to grant any "special treatment" to a third party unless the board of trustees consents to it. You make the inference that builders get a special deal because of the campaign contributions that they make. The contracts that were negotiated with the builders were all made and approved by the village board before President Costanza accepted any campaign contribution from builders. In the same vein, the village board agreed to stop collecting any impact fees for the schools before any campaign contributions were accepted from realtor groups.

On February 10, 2021, you accuse Village of Poplar Grove public officials of intimidation of citizens and dereliction of duty. You accused President Costanza of violating the Open Meetings Act and ethics laws for "evicting people from an open invitation meeting to a partisan political activity in a non-partisan Village on public property." You were referring to a meeting of the Boone County Republican Central Committee, which you were not a member of at the time you were "evicted." Village hall is routinely rented out after business hours to residents and other community groups. There are no laws prohibiting such actions. The Boone County Republican Central Committee is not a public body that is subject to the Open Meetings Act as that act is codified in the Illinois Compiled Statutes. Again, you accused a sitting, elected official of committing official misconduct while providing misinformation to the public and no legal basis for and in reference to your claims.

On February 17, 2021, you accuse the Village of Poplar Grove of theft of your campaign signs, calling it an abuse of power by the Village President. One can infer from the post that you were referring to President Costanza as he was the sitting Village President at the time the post was made. That same post referred to the village as "typical bullies." Section 8-11-4 of our code of ordinances prohibits "any sign placed in or protruding into the public right-of-way." All signs that were removed, including some of President Costanza's signs and some of now-Trustee Cheek's signs, were placed in the public right-of-way. How is enforcing our code an abuse of power? No elected or appointed official committed the crime of theft or official misconduct by removing signs in the public right-of-way.

On February 20, 2021, you make the same theft allegations against President Costanza and "the people he pays their checks with." One can only infer that you are referring to village staff; the same people that you now lead as village president.

Let's also examine why President Costanza removed you from the Planning & Zoning Commission in 2019, which you, by your own actions failed to appear or answer the reasons for your removal. You made published comments as the administrator of the Boone County Republican Central Committee Facebook page, which you subsequently renamed and failed to turn over the login information to Mr. Costanza when he was elected as chairman in 2020. You attacked a Boone County resident named Wendy LaFauce, who was a candidate for the Boone County Board. You stated in a Facebook comment "You must be one of those vile evil crooked communist Democrat officers goose stepping along with the thieves in Springfield." Not only did you make the published accusations at Ms. LaFauce, one can infer from your comment that you accused each and every member of the Illinois General Assembly as committing acts of theft. Those are the same people that control how much funding municipalities receive from the Local Government Distributive Fund as part of the annual state budget.

As recent as June 15, 2021, you posted on another Facebook page that you administer, Boone County Illinois Republicans for Better Government, that I had objected to transparency of live streaming a Village of Poplar Grove town hall meeting. You did not use my name specifically, but, like Mr. Vodnansky did not use your name specifically, one could objectively within reason identify me by viewing the live stream of the Village of Poplar Grove Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday June 14, 2021 that was shared. Mr. President, a post like this illustrates your conscious objection to the rule of law by which this board must adhere to. I don't object to live streaming our meetings, which is allowable under the Open Meetings Act; I object to the illegal methods in which you live stream.

Mr. President, the old familiar phrase is what's good for the goose is good for the gander. You have cast stones against political opponents and residents in the past, but when the stones are cast back at you, the thrower of those stones is now viewed by you as bully. I'm sure that you will view these remarks as an attempt to bully, harass and intimidate you because you play the victim card so very well. I believe that my colleagues will concur that your past and current conduct towards residents and past or current elected officials is just as reprehensible as what you accuse Mr. Vodnansky of and use as justification for his removal from appointed office. Part of servant leadership is leading by example. You can help reduce the vitriol and divisiveness in our local government by being a leader tonight. I will agree to confirm your removal of Mr. Vodnansky from the Village of Poplar Grove Planning & Zoning Commission if you announce during this agenda item that you will resign as village president, effective immediately, because of your past and current conduct.

President Sattler stated that no he will not resign.

Motion made by Trustee Goings, Seconded by Trustee Cheek to reject the removal of Jason Vodnasky.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

17. Motion to approve the appointment of Trustee Ron Quimby as Administration Chairman
Motion made by Trustee Wethington, Seconded by Finance Chairman Miller.
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Wethington to table this item until July 12 Special Board Meeting.

Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

18. Motion to approve the closure of Julie Dr on August 29, 2021 for a Memorial Ride for HydeOut Bar & Grill

Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Wethington.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek
Clerk Anderberg stated that Julie Dr. will be closed from the entrance of Hyde out to countryside estate

19. Motion to approve closure of Beaver Rd on July 31, 2021 for a block party
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Wethington.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

20. Motion to approve the replat of lots 102 and 103 candlewick lake, unit no. 9
Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Goings.
Voting Yea: Finance Chairman Miller, Admin Chairman Quimby, Trustee Goings, Trustee Wethington, Trustee Cheek

GOOD OF THE VILLAGE
Monday July 5, 2021 - Village Hall Closed
Monday July 12, 2021 6:30pm - Committee of the Whole meeting
Wednesday July 21, 2021 7:00pm - Board of Trustee meeting

ADJOURNMENT (Voice Vote)

Motion made by Finance Chairman Miller, Seconded by Trustee Cheek. Motion passed by voice vote.
Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm