



# VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE

*"A Great Place to Call Home"*

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## VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - 7:00 PM**

200 N. Hill Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

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### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order by President Sattler at 7:02 pm

#### ROLL CALL

##### PRESENT

President Don Sattler

Trustee Jeff Goings

Trustee Dan Cheek

Trustee Betsy Straw

Trustee Austin Davies

Clerk Karri Miller

Attorney Aaron Szeto

Public Works Director David Howe

Treasurer Carina Boyd

##### ABSENT

Admin Chairman Owen Costanza

#### APPROVAL OF PHONE PARTICIPATION (Roll Call)

No phone participation

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Voice Vote)

Motion made by Trustee Goings, Seconded by Trustee Cheek to move the executive session to April 4th.

Voting Yea: Trustee Goings

Voting Nay: Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies

Trustee Goings would like a full board to be present for the executive session. Asked for it to be moved to April 4th Special Meeting.

Motion made by Trustee Cheek, Seconded by Trustee Davies.

Voting Yea: Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies

Voting Nay: Trustee Goings

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Voice Vote)**

1. Motion to approve Village Board of Trustee Meeting minutes from January 17, 2024.

Motion made by Trustee Davies, Seconded by Trustee Goings to add President Sattler to the roll call list.

Voting Yea: Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies

Motion made by Trustee Goings, Seconded by Trustee Cheek as amended.

Voting Yea: Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies

**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.*

Karen Neibarger read the following statement into the record-

1. As you know, I attended last week's board workshop with the intention of being sworn in as a trustee. In preparation for the meeting, I looked at the village website to review the board package and the minutes of the previous meetings. I expected to see the January minutes on line and the February minutes in the package. The latest minutes available were from December 13, 2023. The open meetings act says "minutes should be available for public inspection within 10 days after approval." I ask that the minutes be voted on and put up on time.
2. After the pledge to the flag and roll call vote, the board spent 20 to 30 minutes on the agenda with several amendments and votes. This was done while the village attorney was billing in 10-minute increments. It was a very expensive agenda discussion that should never have happened.
  - a. First, I was surprised that I would be voted on and sworn in after the executive session. The objection to my being sworn in immediately was that I shouldn't be in the executive session to hear the discussion. Didn't you think that I would be able to read the minutes of that meeting, or that as a board member I could be entrusted with the facts before me to vote responsibly or that I could keep confidentiality? My conclusion is that the vote was already set up and I might change that.

- b. Second, items 8 and 9 on the agenda were two different motions on the same issue. The objection was that one had been submitted before the other and they wanted theirs first. This tells me that this is a divided board.
- 3. The next item to be taken up was the Treasurer's Report. Evidently this was in response to a request to see invoices from previous years. I did not have minutes to know this so I waited for what I thought was a financial report. The cart filled with file boxes set the stage for the drama to come. do not now why the board allowed a trustee, the previous board president, to give the treasurer's report. This is her job. Instead, I heard him defend his administration's financial procedures. Why was meeting time spent talking about this?
  - a. I expect the current board to discuss current finances. Why is it looking at invoices that were already approved and paid? It's too late. If you don't like what you did - change the procedures.
  - b. Second, the documents displayed were from an individual's facebook post. Pages and pages of village finances were out there - highlighted and specifically chosen to imply, without any explanation or real-time response from the village, that there is a problem in the village and implicating the previous administration and other board members. I find this close to an example of internet bullying.
  - c. For 40 minutes I listened to personal attacks and responses with very little decorum or leadership.
- 4. With no resolution or steps moving forward on the finances, the board moved to the request of a business owner in the village. Granted, he was unprepared - having a family emergency on his mind, but rather than giving him some space and working with him, the board redirected the discussion to political contributions and implication of a "pay to play" scheme to reduce his water rate. He took offense. Why would you offend before working out a solution?
- 5. After this the board turned to restructuring a standing committee. I did not hear a discussion on why the current committee needed to be split or the qualifications and duties

required to chair the committee. Instead, it was only to appoint a favored candidate. Again, a discussion that went nowhere with the attorney billing away.

6. At this time my agenda item came up. It was now two hours later. Would you have wanted to be on this board? I withdrew my resume. I am looking forward to the next village board election. There is five open positions. I would ask each of you to seriously review your own effectiveness in leading this Village.
7. Before I leave, I would add that each of you has skills and experiences that are needed. I've observed enough boards to know that the specific roles stay the same only the actors change. However, at this time the Village of Poplar Grove is not being best served by you and won't be until you stop fighting to have your side win.
8. I left the meeting. I do not know how late it went. I believe the attorney was the one best served last week. And I would like to know tonight how much the attorney billed us.
9. I also think you should hire a board consultant or mediator to get this straightened out.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

2. Engineer Report, McMahon  
No questions
3. Public Works Report, David Howe  
Gave an update on the truck repair
4. Treasurer Report, Carina Boyd  
no questions
5. Wastewater Report, TEST  
Trustee Goings stated that he went and visited TEST down at the treatment plant and he was very impressed with what he saw.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

6. Motion to discuss/approve to approve check disbursement for payments scheduled to be paid prior to March 31, 2024, in the amount of **\$614,582.58** in AP checks, **\$15,411.48** in insurance expense checks, and **\$23,744.53** EFTS for a total of **\$653,738.59**.

Voting Yea: Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies  
Trustee Straw would like to see the backup material in the packet and not just emailed to the trustees.

7. Motion to discuss/approve staff lockers for the new Public Working Building for \$3,789.43.  
Motion made by Trustee Goings, Seconded by Trustee Cheek.

Voting Nay: Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies

Trustee Goings stated that he talked to PWD Howe and that instead of spending money on lockers, Trustee Goings would like to see something built like they currently have at Village Hall.

8. Motion to discuss/approve **Resolution 2024-06** A Resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove resolving to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Boone County for improvements to Beaver Road.  
Motion made by Trustee Cheek, Seconded by Trustee Straw.  
Voting Yea: Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies  
PWD Howe explained the MOU agreement with the County and how this will benefit the Village.
9. Motion to discuss/approve Joint Participation Agreement with Central Management Services for the purchase of Rock Salt for CY2024-CY2025.  
Motion Made by Trustee Goings, Seconded by Trustee Cheek.  
PWD Howe explained that this is the standard agreement that the PWD enters into every year with the State of Illinois. This year they are requiring board approval.
10. Motion to discuss/approve a Professional Service Agreement between the Village of Poplar Grove and Bel Air Estates, LTD.  
Motion made by Trustee Davies, Seconded by Trustee Cheek.  
Voting Yea: Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies  
Clerk Miller explained that this is for professional services regarding the special use permit application that will be heard on April 24th

#### **GOOD OF THE VILLAGE**

11. Special Board of Trustee Meeting April 4th, 2024 - 7:00 pm  
Board of Trustee Meeting April 10th, 2024 - 7:00 pm  
Board of Trustee Meeting April 17th, 2024 - 7:00 pm  
Planning & Zoning Meeting April 24th, 2024 - 6:00 pm

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

12. Motion to go into executive session 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1) Personnel - The appointment, employment compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body.

Motion made by Trustee Cheek, Seconded by Trustee Cheek.

Voting Yea: Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies

Went into executive session at 8:18 pm

Motion made by Trustee Straw, Seconded by Trustee Davies to go back into open session.

Voting Yea: Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Davies

Came back into open session at 9:32 pm

PRESENT

President Sattler  
Trustee Jeff Goings  
Trustee Dan Cheek  
Trustee Betsy Straw  
Trustee Austin Davies  
Clerk Karri Miller  
Attorney Aaron Szeto

ABSENT  
Admin Chairman Owen Costanza

**ADJOURNMENT (Voice Vote)**

Motion made by Trustee Goings, Seconded by Trustee Davies. Motion passed by voice vote.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.