

MEETINGS: 20  
NO. OF REGULAR: 20

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW**  
**January 11, 2021 7:00PM**

ROLL CALL: Trustee Jakubowski – Pr  
Trustee Voll – Pr  
Trustee Hamernik - Pr  
Mayor Peterson– Pr

**ON A MOTION BY**, Trustee Voll and seconded by Trustee Hamernik the December 28, 2020 Village Board Minutes were approved.

**APPOINT POLICE OFFICER**

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Kevin Peterson, do hereby appoint Alek Roberts to the position of Police Officer, pending the passing of the Erie County Health Screening, effective January 13, 2021.

The forgoing nomination was acted upon in the following manner by the Village Board of Trustees:

Trustee Voll - Y  
Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Jakubowski - Y  
Mayor Peterson – Y

Mayor Peterson introduced Alek Roberts and welcomed him to the Village. Alek thanked the board and the Chief for the opportunity and looks forward to being here.

**AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE LOCAL LAW # 1 OF**  
**2021 PUBLIC HEARING NO PARKING SIGN ON WEST SIDE OF**  
**ELMWOOD AVENUE**

Trustee Jakubowski, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

The Administrator is authorized to advertise a public hearing to discuss the possibility of placing a no parking here to corner sign on the west side of Elmwood Avenue, twenty (20) feet from Broadway St. The public hearing will take place on Monday January 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the council chambers.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Voll and **CARRIED**.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2018 COUNTY OF ERIE SOCIAL HOST**  
**LAW**

Trustee Hamernik offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS, underage drinking and drug use is a significant societal problem that has generated concern in the Village of Depew and is a problem that burdens the limited resources of local emergency responders; and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie adopted in December 2018 an amended Social Host Law (Local Law 2-1-2018) that imposes criminal penalties for those adults who in their homes provide alcohol and/or drugs to minors;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Village of Depew Board of Trustees congratulates the County of Erie for amending its Social Host Law; for the County's efforts in promoting the public health, safety and general welfare of our residents; and for educating residents regarding the dangers of underage alcohol use and drug use; The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Jakubowski and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Voll -Y  
Trustee Jakubowski – Y  
Mayor Peterson – Y

#### **PERMISSION – DEPEW FIRE DEPT**

Trustee Voll, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

Permission is hereby granted to the Depew Fire Department to use the North Side Fire Station for a Flashover Simulator Training being given by the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs on Saturday February 27 and Sunday February 28, 2021 from 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM. This training will be outdoors using an enclosed NFPA compliant live fire simulation trailer. All current COVID rules and regulations will be adhered to.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Hamernik, and **CARRIED.**

#### **PERMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – DEPEW FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Trustee Hamernik, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, membership is hereby granted to the following in the Depew Fire Department pending the passing of their physicals:

#### **WEST END #6**

Thomas Mazurowski, Jr.  
Eli Mayer

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Jakubowski, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Voll - Y  
Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Jakubowski - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**PERMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – DEPEW FIRE DEPARTMENT JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM**

Trustee Jakubowski, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, membership is hereby granted to the following in the Depew Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program pending the passing of his physical:

John Redman IV

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Hamernik, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Voll - Y  
Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Jakubowski -Y  
Mayor Peterson -Y

**PERMISSION – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Trustee Hamernik, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, Depew Fire Department would like permission to take Engine 6 to the Millgrove Fire Station, 11621 Genesee St, Alden, NY on Wednesday January 13, 2021 from 6 PM – 9 PM to attend the funeral of Beckie Eleczko, Millgrove EMS Lieutenant and daughter of Millgrove Fire Chief Bob Eleczko.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The above foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Jakubowski and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Voll - Y  
Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Jakubowski - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS - DPW - Mark Musielak**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Building – December 2020**

## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING JANUARY 11, 2021

1) CURRENT ROSTER: 112 FIREFIGHTERS, 7 JUNIORS

2) 2020 TOTAL CALLS: 341

3) 2020 was a challenging year for the fire department with the prevalence of COVID-19. Firefighting in general is based strongly in training and preparation. This past year, our training program experienced some significant challenges because of the virus. Never did we think we'd be holding training events over zoom and not in person. It's just not the nature of our training since most of our training is hands on. I want to commend the men and women of the Depew Fire Department for going the extra mile over this past year, making the necessary adjustments to still attend virtual training events, including many mandated training sessions that were now online, that are usually done in person each year. My staff has put forth the hard work and dedication that our residents have come to expect from us, and they will continue to do so in 2021.

4) DFD firefighters can now begin getting the COVID-19 vaccine this week under NYS's 1-B phased distribution plan. Firefighters will be able to individually sign up for an appointment for this vaccine.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd J. Rzeszutek

Todd J. Rzeszutek Fire Chief Depew Fire Department

5) Our fire stations are still on lockdown due to Covid, except for emergencies and necessary business that needs to be attended to. This will remain the case until further notice.

6) Residents are asked to please consider "adopting" a fire hydrant near their home for the rest of the winter, and commit to clearing it of snow after any significant snowfall. Hydrants should be cleared in a 3' radius around it. Please avoid piling snow up near fire hydrants, and ensure your plow service is not burying the hydrants as well. Firefighters were out last night, this morning, and are currently out right now digging out as many hydrants as possible, but we rely on our residents to do their part to reduce the risk that they could be putting their home and their neighbors' homes in as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd J. Rzeszutek Todd J. Rzeszutek

Fire Chief

## Village Board meeting January 11, 2021

Our officers continually respond to our community needs and I applaud them for their professionalism and their commitment to this village. As the new year begins we will continuously adapt to the communities needs and the yearly law changes and governments mandates.

We have a great department here, our officers are doing a great job throughout this COVID epidemic and they have been very flexible with the changes that have occurred. Our officers are professional, they are very well trained and because they are serving this community in a positive fashion – We do not get many complaints that are substantiated. However, we understand that the public want change and we are currently reviewing all are police procedures in an effort to improve public perception. New ideas to improve our public interactions are being reviewed and some policy changes have already been implemented. With the Police reform collaborative and reinvention group that we have assembled, we will certainly make improvements to a department that has already sits in good standing with this community.

I would ask that everyone watching to please go to the Depew Police Facebook or the Village of Depew website and take the 10 min survey, it is designed to identify problems or perceptions that the residents have regarding this department and your input is important to us as we get through this police reform process

I want to thank the Village Board for hiring Alek Roberts, he will fill an immediate need to this department

We are still monitoring the COVID infection rates in Erie county and are prepared modify our operation as needed

I want to thank all our residents for their support, we couldn't do this increasingly difficult job without it – so thank you

The safety of the public is our highest priority and we are committed to ensuring all our residents feel safe in this village.

- Yearly report

January 9 was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day—a day where the nation gets to give their gratitude to law enforcement officers and organizations for all the work they do. Life is not easy if you work in the law enforcement sector. On a day-to-day basis, these people on their lives on the line to protect the innocent. In the past 10 years, 1,582 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty, which is an average of one death every 55 hours. Since the first of the month there has been already two police officers killed in the line of duty. Furthermore, more police die by suicide than in the line of duty, and have much higher rates of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, burnout and other anxiety-related conditions.

So, your support does really help our officers and everyone that wears this uniform. I just ask that you please keep the officers in your prayers and thank them for their incredible service.

Thank you

## **UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS – N/A**

### **PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS**

Bob of Senator Kennedy's office reported that the DMV will now take payment plans in order to pay for licenses to make sure they are not suspended. You need to call them to make arrangements. Spoke of the Governor's State of the State address and said he is looking at making marijuana legal for recreational use and also opening up betting on sports instead of only at casino's to increase the deficit that the state is in.

Liz reported that the Assemblywoman is working on the vaccination process. As always, please contact them with any unemployment issues.

RJ said that the OEM department is still monitoring the situation of the pandemic.

Tony reported that the 2 new hires in Code are fantastic. Already on the road and working out well. He is looking forward to catching up on all inspections and licenses.

The recreation department is gearing up for Spring Kevin Ferguson reported. They will have softball with 2 leagues. They will have box lacrosse. He and Marie are looking at the rentals and pricing and will put something together for the board to review. Kevin is meeting with St. Mary's tomorrow morning to discuss them making Fireman's Park their home rink. He believes they will be one of the biggest hockey organizations in the area. Still has kids skating at the rink as well.

Ken has the new vehicles and equipment getting prepped for usage at the DPW. They are also working with other departments right now to complete some jobs that they requested.

Attorney Alba happily reported that the Village is caught up on all FOIL requests right now. He and Tony will be meeting to discuss the tote situation soon.

PD – see report

Trustee Hamernik said that they served 140 families this past Saturday at the municipal building with the food truck!

Mayor Peterson asked Kevin if he will be having yoga again this year to which he replied absolutely! The Village received word that it was awarded approximately \$165,000 to use towards remodeling Dawson field into an all-inclusive park. There will be swings, tables, shade trees, refuse receptacles, a wheel chair accessible swing set, picnic table, et. Duroturf will be used on the surface so if a little one has a mishap, they will not be injured. They also received word of an approximate \$26,000 grant towards the Tree Inventory Grant.

Public comment was to welcome and congratulate Alek and to say he has joined the best Police Department ever!!!!

### **CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

**ON A MOTION BY** Trustee Jakubowski and seconded by Trustee Hamernik, the following claims are to be paid: \$56,815.64 General, \$2,520.53 Capital Project Building Renovations, \$59,336.47 Capital was **CARRIED**.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON A MOTION BY** Trustee Jakubowski, seconded by Trustee Voll, the meeting was adjourned with a moment of silence for Lewie Zito – Zito Movers and Beckie Eleczko – Millgrove Fire Dept at 7:49 **PM**. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Wachowiak  
Village Administrator