

MEETINGS: 22
NO. OF REGULAR: 22

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW
February 8, 2021 7:00PM

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

ON A MOTION BY, Trustee Voll and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jakubowski, the February 8, 2021 Village Board Minutes were approved.

APPOINT POLICE OFFICER

Pursuant to sec 4-400 of village law, I Mayor Kevin Peterson, so hereby appoint
Michael Cash

to the position of Police Officer, pending the passing of the Erie county Physical fitness test and County Health screening, effective February 9, 2021.

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

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

Chief Miller welcomed Michael to the Depew Police Department, stating he put himself through the police academy, which shows how much determination this man has. He should be on the road alone by early spring because of it. This saves a lot of money for the Village to not have to pay for the academy and weeks and weeks of more training.

Board member, department heads welcomed him aboard.

Michael said it was an honor to be here and that he is looking forward to the opportunity, and thanked the Chief and the Board for that.

AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS – GARBAGE

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Administrator is hereby authorized to advertise for bids for the Collection and Hauling of Municipal Solid Waste, Bulk Waste and Recyclable Collection, hauling from the residential and other participating parcels within the Village, date of bid opening will be March 16, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS – DPW – Noah Burke, C J Foster, Steve Leszczynski, Mike-ie Piddisi, Louis Prentice Jr., Roland Martin, Marc Adamberger, Darin Joseph, Daryle McKnight, Wayne Grambo, David R. Federowicz, Scotty Doyle, Rob Fargino, Trevor Starzynski, Dave Jurek, Jason Lons, Thomas A. Lougen, Antonio Medina, Raymod Cloen Jr., Thomas McClain, Jeffery Rogacki, Mathew Alba, Kyle Pososny

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Building – 2020 State Report & January 2021,
Police – January 2021

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2021

1) CURRENT ROSTER: 112 FIREFIGHTERS, 7 EXPLORERS

2) FEBRUARY 2021 CALLS TO DATE: 5 YTD CALLS: 18

3) YTD DAMAGES: \$0.00

4) Due to the state lifting the color zone designations, the fire department has eased some of the restrictions that have been in place for the past several months. Most importantly, in-person training has resumed. Training is a huge portion of our job, and it has been quite difficult to improve on our firefighter's skillsets with having to conduct training via Zoom meetings. While some of these restrictions have been lifted, we are still abiding by social distancing recommendations for training and meetings that have now resumed.

5) Residents are once again asked to "adopt a hydrant" near your home, and commit to keeping that hydrant free and clear of snow for the remainder of the winter season. This will greatly assist our department when responding to fires, since precious time that could be used to make a rescue and a quick attack on a fire would not be wasted by personnel trying to dig out a fire hydrant.

6) Residents are also reminded that parking in front of a fire hydrant is against the law. I have seen an increase in the amount of vehicles parking in front of hydrants over the past few months. Vehicles parked in front of a hydrant will hinder firefighters from making a proper connection to that hydrant in an emergency. Doing so could result in parking tickets, your vehicle being towed, or worse. If our firefighters have no other way to hook into a hydrant with a vehicle parked in front of it, your vehicle's windows will become the pathway that we use in order to do our job to insure the protection of life and property.

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd J. Rzeszutek Todd J. Rzeszutek Fire Chief

Village Board meeting February 8, 2021

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, and are always serving this community in a positive fashion – However, in the past week, we had three of our officers test positive for COVID and 1 clerk. So, we are taking further steps to protect our staff. Many of our staff have already been tested and a small percentage have already received the vaccine. Currently, there has been no effect on our operations but we have had to adjust schedules and move officers around to maintain staffing levels.

We are still working on our collaborative efforts and reinvention of this department and are still asking for the public to take the survey on our Facebook page and on the village of Depew website. The 10 min survey 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 Michael Cash. Michael has already put himself through the Police Academy. He only has to attend two weeks of classes to finish his academy training and will begin his field training in March. He should be on the road by himself in early spring. With Michael attending the academy as a preemployment recruit, it resulted in a huge savings to our residents and this police department. It allows him to have a bigger impact on this agency in a much faster pace than if we had to put him through a 6-month academy. This obviously shows his devotion to this profession and his passion to make law enforcement his career – So, thanks Mike and I look forward to working with you.

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.

- January report

I would ask that you keep all our officers in your prayers and ask the good lord to keep them safe

On another note, residents, please remember to lock your vehicles. Not only our community, but others as well have been experiencing a lot of car break-ins and people's belongings being stolen. If you see something, call 911. We apprehend these criminals more often than you think.

Thank you
Chief Miller

Liz – The Assemblywoman is in session in Albany. She is working on many Assembly bills. One in particular puts a moratorium on the ability to evict a resident from their home for lack of payment of mortgage or rent.

Bob Brandon stated that Senator Kennedy has been working diligently to make sure that COVID vaccination is delivered fairly to all residents should be considered to receive the shot.

There is also a voting reform to allow anyone to request an absentee ballot, allowing them to not need a reason to ask for such. Also, to allow voters to email in a request for an absentee ballot, not just calling or coming in or faxing. This effort is to increase resident participation in elections. He is also asking to allow residents an additional 8 days to turn in their 15 days before the election instead of 7. He told the board to watch for an email with an attachment that the Senator would appreciate if we can put it on our website.

DPW Superintendent Ken – guys doing a great job plowing over the weekend and today. He will be setting up the Laborer interviews soon. One resident wanted to thank him and his department for the load of wood he just received. He asked for it and the next day it was delivered. Ken reminded them that when a tree is cut down, it is delivered to residents who request them the same day.

Tony in Code said January has been a busy month!! Speaking with a lot of residents and businesses about their sidewalks. Please, please tell your plow drivers or remind yourself not to push the snow into the right of way or on the sidewalk. Trustee Hamernik asked how his two new employees are doing and he told everyone they are doing fantastic!!! Both up and running which gives him more time to do more of his work!!!!

Kevin at Rec said the rink has been very busy! All of January's ice is booked and almost all of February. Urges people to check out Always Summer La Crosse web site. The president of the club is the coach for St. Mary's and he wants to book the rink for La Crosse 5 days a week, 4 hours a day each week. This would be another revenue stream for the Village. Mayor Peterson said Kevin has been talking about using the rink for other things during the spring and summer since he has gotten here, nice to see it finally coming.

Attorney Alba has been working with Tony on the garbage local law and tweaking it where needed. This is more important now since the Village is going out to bid for this service very soon. Our current contract ends on May 31, 2020. In short, for a few years now some have abused the use of the totes and have accumulated more than the allotted

4. This will be made clear in an amendment to our local law and hopefully it will be on the agenda for the next board meeting. Also, he is working on putting something together to help employees understand the importance of staying home if they are not feeling well. This is a directive from the Department of Health, we need to take this very seriously. Joe Keefe said we are very close to settling the property sale on Sanilac and at least 2 paper streets are close to or near closing.

A resident had a question regarding whether they need a permit or not to shovel their neighbors sidewalk. Tony answered, absolutely not, if you are just helping your neighbor, that's all you are doing is trying to help.

Another resident asked Kevin Ferguson if there will kids La Crosse, to which he replied, yes, there will be.

Mayor Peterson relayed messages and questions from the public.

Is the Village taxpayer money, being spent on the Dom Pulski building, that's what it sounds like. Mayor Peterson reassured them that no taxpayer money is being spent on it. However, we did try to get funding through CDBG and it didn't make the cut. Trustee Hamernik added that funds are being donated from businesses.

Another asked about doing sidewalks this year on the Lancaster side by Terrace for example. Mayor Peterson explained that we have gotten CDBG funding for 2 years in a row for that, which is unusual. To get it 3 years in a row is not common. However this year, we were turned down. The Cheektowaga side of the Village has been approved but there is a very small area that fits the criteria for low to moderate income areas. That area is the West side of Transit, on the Southeast end, and extends to Borden.

Trustee Hamernik stated that more than \$11,000 has been donated from local businesses. On February 11th the Supreme Court will be ruling on getting the Dom Pulski building put into the name of the DKAT group.

Dave Pace wanted to thank the Village of Depew leaders for all that they do! Even with the taxes they have to pay.

Mayor Peterson stated that with the board meetings being on Facebook live, it appears we have increased our input from residents and continue to show our transparency.

UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS – N/A

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

ON A MOTION BY Deputy Mayor Jakubowski and seconded by Trustee Hamernik, the following claims are to be paid: \$75,748.30 General, \$2,756.90 Sewer, \$144,994.68 Capital was **CARRIED**.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION BY Deputy Mayor Jakubowski, seconded by Trustee Voll, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 **PM**. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Wachowiak
Village Administrator