

**VILLAGE OF THIENSVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, February 15, 2021

**LOCATION: 250 Elm Street
Thiensville, WI**

TIME: 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Mobley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

President:	Van Mobley	
Trustees:	Jennifer Abraham	Rob Holyoke
	Angelina Apostolos	Ken Kucharski
	Kristina Eckert	David Lange
Administrator:	Colleen Landisch-Hansen	
Attorney:	Tim Schoonenberg	
Staff:	Fire Chief Brian Reiels	
	Police Chief Curt Kleppin	
	Director of Community Services/Public Works	Andy LaFond
	Village Clerk/Deputy Treasurer	Amy Langlois

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Eckert led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon request of any Trustee, any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda for special consideration.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Board of Trustees
 - 1. January 18, 2021

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS (Receipt)

- A. Department Reports (Receipt)
 - 1. Fire Department
 - a. N/A
 - 2. Police Department
 - a. January Police, 2021
 - 3. Public Works Department
 - a. January DPW, 2021

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VII. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. **Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission**
 - 1. March 5, 2020

- B. **Milwaukee River Advisory Committee**
 - 1. June 3, 2020 (not available)

- C. **Historic Preservation Commission**
 - 1. December 8, 2020
 - 2. January 5, 2021

- D. **Plan Commission**
 - 1. January 12, 2021

- E. **Capital Expenditures**

Administrator Landisch-Hansen shared two capital requests; both are budgeted items. The first is for a security camera server in the amount of \$7,500 and the second for a park and open space plan for \$8,300.

MOTION by Trustee Holyoke, **SECONDED** by Trustee Lange to approve the Consent Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BUSINESS AGENDA

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

- A. **Accounts Payable for All Funds**
 - 1. **Accounts Payable**
 - a. January 18, 2021 through February 12, 2021

Administrator Landisch-Hansen shared that the accounts payable for the period of January 18, 2021 through February 12, 2021 total \$1,090,851.43. Included in this are the February tax settlements which include payments to Ozaukee County for \$119,599.27, Mequon-Thiensville School District for \$595,930.89 and MATC for \$86,183.21.

MOTION by Trustee Lange, **SECONDED** by Trustee Eckert to approve the Accounts Payable for January 18, 2021 through February 12, 2021 in the Amount of \$1,090,851.43. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 2. **Financial Report (Receipt)**
 - a. December, 2020 (preliminary)
 - b. January, 2021

The December, 2020 (preliminary) and January, 2021 Financial Reports were received.

IX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Fire Department Members
 - 1. Bailey T. Kratt
 - 2. Shelby J. Mayer

MOTION by Trustee Holyoke, **SECONDED** by Trustee Kucharski to approve the Appointment of Bailey T. Kratt and Shelby J. Mayer as New Fire Department Members. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

X. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. Department Reports
 - 1. Administrator's Report

Administrator Landisch-Hansen shared that the Spring Primary will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. The only position on the ballot is for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Village's 2020 tax collections yielded 81.71% of the total taxes due compared to 78.03% last year. Again, the vast majority of taxes are collected at Village Hall (89.67%) with two local banks collecting the remaining 10.13%.

The annual audit was conducted last week. Preparations for the audit and fulfilling requests during audit week is no small undertaking. Administrator Landisch-Hansen thanked the Village staff. The audit was conducted virtually. The final report is historically issued in April or early May.

Administrator Landisch-Hansen submitted forms to the state requesting to host a vaccination site. Unfortunately, because the Village does not have a physician on staff, we are unable to host a vaccine clinic.

The Wisconsin Policy Forum has completed their draft report, and it is currently under review. The next step is for Chief Elected Officials, Fire Chiefs and Administrators to meet the week of February 22, 2021. There are plans to have a virtual launch. The Wisconsin Policy Forum will formally present their report to the Village Board in March.

- 2. Building Inspection Department (Receipt)
 - a. January, 2021 Report

The Building Inspection Department invoice was received.

XI. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No Attorney's report.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Discussion, review and action regarding Thiensville Business Association and Gathering on the Green Village Park Events (Rob Kos)

Rob Kos, Executive Director of the Thiensville Business Association (TBA), shared that the TBA will be holding its usual events in Village Park along with some new events. The monthly Food Truck Tour will begin on May 20th with the last scheduled event to be held on October 28th. The Village Market will once again be held on Tuesdays beginning on June 22nd and running through October 12th. Nightmare on Elm Street is a new event which will be held in conjunction with business trick-or-treat on October 28th. When the families are done trick-or-treating in the Village, they can come to Village Park for some activities and food. Also, on September 18th and 19th the Best Dam Blues Fest will be held; this is a new event.

Mr. Kos also shared that Gathering on the Green will be at Village Park for two new events. The first is on Sunday, June 6th and will be Jazz in the Park from 12:00 PM until 7:00 PM. The second is scheduled for Saturday, August 7th from 1:00 PM or 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM. The genre of the music at this event is still undetermined. Gathering on the Green will be holding these two events this year and may expand to four or five next year. This year, Gathering on the Green is expanding their community outreach and doing a lot more events outside of the July event. There is a weekly series at the Mequon Public Market and events scheduled at Foxtown.

Trustee Kucharski inquired if local events had been considered when planning for these events. Mr. Kos had conversations with Shully's and is mindful when scheduling events at Village Park.

Trustee Apostolos inquired about the hours of Nightmare on Elm Street. Mr. Kos stated that those hours will be 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM so families can trick-or-treat and then stop down at the Park.

Mr. Kos thanked the Board.

B. Mequon-Thiensville Sanitary Interceptor Rehabilitation Project Update

Director of Community Services/Public Works Andy LaFond shared an update regarding the Mequon-Thiensville Sanitary Rehabilitation Project. The sanitary sewer interceptor is shared with the City of Mequon. All the Village's sewage is pumped to a shared pipe with the City of Mequon. This 36" pipe runs by gravity all the way to the MMSD interceptor that is just south of County Line. Together we share the responsibilities of that pipe. The Village designed and built it and the City agreed to take care of long-term maintenance and rehabilitation.

This pipe is deteriorating and needs a liner. This is the third phase of the project of which the Village is responsible for 33%. The low bid came in at \$738,574.70. This has been budgeted for over a couple years.

C. Discussion regarding Village Parking

Director LaFond shared that a parking study has been presented to both the Plan Commission and Village Board. The study shares that people are not willing to walk more than 350 feet to a restaurant. After running the numbers and conducting a parking study in the area, that number is true. On a Saturday evening, between private and public parking there was 101 parking spots filled but 40 still available. Just outside that 350 foot range on both sides of Main Street, there were 57 spots available. When looking at areas to spend money on for parking, location is important in that if it is too far, it will not be used. The leased lot at 121 South Main Street will be discussed at a future Board meeting. There is also the possibility of exploring space along the railroad. This could take a few years so starting conversations now with the railroad may be a good idea.

Board of Trustees Minutes
February 15, 2021
Page five of nine

Trustee Eckert asked that the parking study be shared with local businesses. Director LaFond stated that the TBA has shared this presentation with local businesses.

Trustee Apostolos inquired if all the available public parking was published on the Village's website. The study is not on the Village's website, however, Director LaFond stated that some local restaurants have put the parking map on their website.

President Mobley shared that the lot the Village leases to Mr. Mueller will be on a future agenda for discussion.

**D. Discussion, review and action regarding Village Board and Committee Meeting
Format and Safety Precautions (Trustee Holyoke)**

Trustee Holyoke is bringing this back to the Board because he has been contacted by a number of current committee members about their frustration that hybrid meetings (in-person and virtual) are not offered. Trustee Holyoke is proposing hybrid meetings for Board and Committee meetings. A few months ago Trustee Holyoke was going to make a motion that the Village provide the option to attend meetings virtual. When it was offered that masks would be worn by all Trustees, Trustee Holyoke decided not to make a motion. Trustee Holyoke wished he would have pursued this and is also disappointed with the Board for not considering doing what he believes is best for the public good. Trustee Holyoke has brought this issue up many times and does not feel that there was support.

Trustee Holyoke stated that in light of the ongoing requests from committee members, it is obvious that many of them are not comfortable with the in-person meetings. Trustee Holyoke agrees that virtual attendance at meetings is not perfect, however, believes it is a safer way for both persons in attendance and virtual attendees to meet and stated the fewer people in the room, the lower the risk is to possibly transmit the virus.

There has already been one resignation from a committee and others are close to doing the same. Trustee Holyoke stated that it has been said that if people do not feel safe serving the Village as volunteers, they should just resign and we will find someone else. Trustee Holyoke finds that attitude appalling. It has also been shared that setting up for these virtual meetings is a lot of work for Village staff, and Trustee Holyoke does not believe that this is a good enough reason and believes the process should be easier and more streamlined as time goes along.

One resident that contacted Trustee Holyoke did an informal survey of what other surrounding communities are doing for their meetings: Bayside, Brown Deer, Cedarburg, Fox Point, Glendale, Mequon and River Hills have their meetings virtually only; Germantown, Grafton and Saukville have hybrid meetings; and Port Washington is the only other community to have in-person only meetings.

Trustee Holyoke shared a concern by a resident who questioned whether not holding virtual meetings was a ploy by the Village to keep things secret from the public and stated transparency is important - it is not just committee members, the general public should be able to view meetings virtually.

Trustee Holyoke referred to a column in the February 14th edition of the Journal Sentinel regarding this issue. The article ended with this, "Section 19.81 of the Open Meetings Law says: All meetings of all state and local governmental bodies shall be publicly held in places reasonably accessible to members of the public." Making members of the public endanger their health is not reasonably accessible, no one in Wisconsin should have to put their lives at risk to attend a public meeting stated Trustee Holyoke.

MOTION by Trustee Holyoke to Offer Hybrid Meetings at all Village meetings.

Trustee Holyoke noted that Ron Heinritz was present and would like to speak.

Board of Trustees Minutes
February 15, 2021
Page six of nine

President Mobley stated that Mr. Heinritz will not be allowed to speak due to the fact that the Trustee from the Historic Preservation Commission is present. Trustee Abraham agreed to read a letter from Mr. Heinritz. Mr. Heinritz asked if he could be heard. President Mobley asked Mr. Heinritz to please sit down stating that Trustee Abraham will read his letter.

Trustee Abraham read a letter from Mr. Heinritz which stated he hoped there could be some type of virtual accommodations made for the Historic Preservation Commission members who at this time feel that they are at high risk and requested virtual attendance at committee meetings. Mr. Heinritz asked the Board for consideration and support and stated that by not allowing any virtual attendance during this time, puts people in a personal dilemma between public service or a higher risk association which could be avoided. Mr. Heinritz commended the Village for their efforts to make commissions as safe as possible but knows there are no guarantees. At present Mequon is conducting meetings virtual under the recommendations of the CDC limiting public gatherings to help protect the community from the coronavirus. Mr. Heinritz hopes this issue of virtual accommodations will be made and to move forward in a positive direction.

Trustee Abraham questioned about the Mequon-Thiensville Bike Pedestrian meeting virtually due to the fact that the Board this evening is approving minutes from March, 2020, and all other meetings in 2020 were cancelled. One of Trustee Abraham's concerns regarding virtual meetings is access.

Mr. Heinritz stated that there was an error in reporting noting there were two meetings of the Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission in January and February. President Mobley reminded Mr. Heinritz that this was not the time to speak and if he continued, he would be removed from the meeting. Mr. Heinritz stated he would not wish to be removed. President Mobley then asked Chief Kleppin to remove Mr. Heinritz from the meeting. President Mobley thanked Mr. Heinritz. Chief Kleppin escorted Mr. Heinritz from the meeting. Before he left the Board Room, Mr. Heinritz asked for the reason he was being removed. President Mobley stated it is because he was speaking out of turn and disrupting the meeting and cannot speak on an agenda item. Mr. Heinritz shared that Trustee Abraham had reported some incorrect information stating that there were no meetings, however, there were two meetings. President Mobley thanked Mr. Heinritz again. Chief Kleppin escorted Mr. Heinritz out.

President Mobley stated that the Village meetings are safe and there have been offers of accommodation for the Historic Preservation Commission that have not been accepted. The Historic Preservation Commission has to consider serious things for the applicants and it impacts the quality of the product if members are not present - for example: color pallet and texture which cannot be done by Zoom. President Mobley has encouraged repeatedly the Chairman and Trustee to not have meetings if they do not have to or to combine meetings – this has not been pursued. In fact, President Mobley stated things have been placed on the agenda that do not have to be on the agenda which extends the length of the meetings. President Mobley also stated that a large part of the problem stems from the fact that earlier the Board made a decision to appoint the Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission who is not the Trustee. Traditionally the Trustee who sits on committees is the Chair. It is important to note that accommodations to move to a larger room have been made which has not been accepted.

President Mobley thanked Mr. Streifender for his service to the Historic Preservation Commission. When a resignation is submitted, President Mobley coordinates with the Trustee on that particular commission and a new appointment is selected.

President Mobley stated that Zoom meetings are not the same as meeting in-person. The Village Board Room has been set up for social distancing. The Fire Department Training Room was offered to the Historic Preservation Commission as it is larger and they could spread out further. Concern regarding walking quorums with the Historic Preservation Commission was also expressed.

**Board of Trustees Minutes
February 15, 2021
Page seven of nine**

President Mobley stated that the Board meetings are transparent, and the Village has in the past considered whether they would like to publish the meetings online. The decision was not to publish. Trustee Holyoke stated that now is a chance to do this and as safe as President Mobley believes these meetings are, having a hybrid version of this meeting would be safer. This is not to say that most of the Board members or Committee members would not be at the meetings, but there would be the option. Trustee Holyoke stated that there were more people that would have liked to attend the meeting that the Village held at Shully's in January, however, did not attend because they did not feel safe.

Trustee Holyoke noted that Bob Blazich sent an email to the Board. President Mobley shared that residents have questioned why one person is serving on multiple committees when they want to serve.

Trustee Abraham believes that Mr. Heinritz is telling the truth about meeting virtually in January and February, however, has concerns regarding these meetings being noticed. Trustee Holyoke did clarify that the minutes to the meetings are not posted until they are approved by the Common Council. Trustee Eckert did share that there was a Bike Commission meeting on February 4th at 8:00 AM.

MOTION by Trustee Holyoke to Offer Hybrid Meetings at all Village meetings. Motion not seconded. **MOTION NOT CARRIED.**

- E. Acceptance of Resignation from Tom Streifender, Historic Preservation Commission, Term to Expire May, 2021

President Mobley thanked Mr. Streifender for his service.

MOTION by Trustee Lange, **SECONDED** by Trustee Abraham to Accept Resignation from Tom Streifender, Historic Preservation Commission, Term to Expire May, 2021, With Much Gratitude.

Ayes: Trustees Abraham, Apostolos, Eckert, Kucharski, Lange and President Mobley

Naes: Trustee Holyoke

MOTION CARRIED.

- F. Review and action regarding appointing Nathan Matson to fill the Unexpired term on the Historic Preservation Commission

MOTION by Trustee Lange, **SECONDED** by Trustee Eckert to Appoint Nathan Matson to Fill the Unexpired Term on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ayes: Trustees Abraham, Apostolos, Eckert, Kucharski, Lange and President Mobley

Naes: Trustee Holyoke

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT RESOLUTION NUMBER:	2021-02
NEXT ORDINANCE NUMBER:	2021-02

XIII. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

XIV. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

- A. Citizens to be Heard

Open to any citizen who wishes to speak on items not on the agenda. Please step to the podium and give your name and address for the record.

XV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XVI. ANY OTHER MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS BY THE TRUSTEES AS MAY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD, OR CARRIED OVER FROM THE JANUARY 18, 2021 VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

- A. Inter-Governmental Committee with Mequon
B. Use of 101 Green Bay Road, Old Village Hall & Fire Station
C. Acceptance/Report of Gifts Received:
D. Dialog with Mequon regarding water utility service
E. Review next month's meeting date schedule:
March 1, 2021 – Committee of the Whole at 6:00 PM
March 15, 2021 – Board of Trustees at 6:00 PM

Director LaFond shared that repair to the railroad was performed last week.

Trustee Eckert believes the Board did a poor job listening to the citizens at the January Public Hearing and explaining to them the process. Better showmanship on the Village's part would have been to remind those that attended that responses to their concerns shared during the Public Hearing would be discussed during the Board meeting that followed. By not doing this, Trustee Eckert does not feel the Board did a good job representing them and wished she had been more educated on the process. She believes that people left the Public Hearing not knowing there would be more discussion. Trustee Apostolos agreed that citizens should have been made aware that their concerns would be addressed this evening and not have to wait until the minutes were available. Attorney Schoonenberg shared that some municipalities position the item up for discussion right after the Public Hearing. President Mobley shared that he will be more deliberate about informing those that attend Public Hearings in the future.

Trustee Kucharski questioned that if an event occurs in the Village involving police action, are Village Trustees able to come to the Village to inquire about the incident? President Mobley shared that, yes, Trustees can make this inquiry to the Village Administrator.

XVII. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Trustee Eckert, **SECONDED** by Trustee Abraham to adjourn to Closed Session at 6:50 PM deliberating about the investment of public funds in future Village properties requiring a Closed Session due to the competitive nature and bargaining positions at risk if conducted in a public meeting. Such Closed Session is authorized pursuant to Wis. Stats. Article 19.85(1)(e).

1. Roll Call Vote
- 2.

Ayes: Trustees Abraham, Apostolos, Eckert, Holyoke, Kucharski, Lange and President Mobley.

Naes: None

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

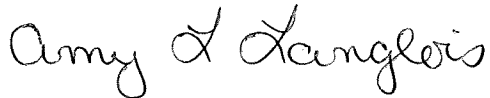
1. Vote of Board to reconvene

MOTION by Trustee Lange, **SECONDED** by Trustee Eckert to Reconvene in Open Session at 7:45 PM. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Trustee Abraham, **SECONDED** by Trustee Lange to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy L. Langlois".

Amy L. Langlois
Village Clerk