

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ALBANY VILLAGE BOARD

August 29, 2017

The Special meeting of the Albany Village Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Albany Village Hall by President Kim Blumer. Members present were: Blumer, Eileen Althaus, Terry Gould, Nathan Ramsay, Fred Johnson, Michelle Monson, and Tonya Stephan. Also present were: Chief Bob Ritter and Officer Logan Lange and many residents of the village.

The Pledge of Allegiance was shared.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Monson, seconded by Ramsay to approve the agenda as posted. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Blumer explained that this hearing is to hear information regarding burning in the village. Currently, the village allows the burning of dry, combustible rubbish, along with dry, untreated wood, and leaves. The proposed ordinance would not allow the burning of any type of rubbish, but wood, leaves, and recreational burns would also still be allowed. Blumer then asked for a show of hands to see how many of the 50+ people present at tonight's meeting would like to see the burning not allowed in the village any longer. Hands were raised and counted 7 residents. He then asked for a show of hands of how many are interested in keeping the ordinance as it is. 36 hands were counted. The question was then asked as to why they are even considering a change? Ramsay explained the reasons he felt that he should research and write a proposed budget is to cease the burning of items that release such dangerous chemicals into the air. He explained several toxins that are released and the types of things that are now included in the ink used to print or the plastic on the envelopes. The main intention is to have all burning barrels removed from the village. Monson questioned how the different ordinance would make it any easier to police than the new one? A very intense discussion was then held. Several issues that were discussed were: How many citations have been written. Chief Ritter replied that none had been written in the time period that he had reviewed. And it only averaged about 5 calls that were received each year. But, he said, that he figures that people don't want to call in a report on a neighbor. It was also questioned on what this cost would be to the taxpayers. Blumer explained that this would not be able to be forecast, as it would depend on the amount of paper that people would add to the tonnage at the landfill. The question about how to dispose of legal documents was asked and Gould suggested that you could purchase a shredder. Ramsay asked again "do you want to put these toxins in the air for our children? But he agrees that we need options. A concern was that the village would be taking something away from the residents without giving them any options to offset it. It was stated that this is being presented poorly, because the public is wondering what they are to do with the burnable items that they have been disposing of by burning now if the village is not giving them a choice. Again, there should be options given. Garbage curbside pickup was suggested. However, it was reported that this evening's meeting was strictly to discuss burning within the village limits. One comment is that health issues are more important than ease to be able to burn. Some details within the ordinance were then discussed. One of the main concern is policing burning. The police department will follow up if there are calls regarding improper burning, however it will be asked of them to check into issues that they see without a call, too. It was also suggested that people speak with their neighbors, first, before reporting them. This may be able to work things out amicably and it won't be an issue again. However, if the neighbor declines following the law, then they should be turned in. It was also discussed that the police department will be allowed to enter properties to check the burning barrels for violators. After a very informative discussion was held, a motion was made by Monson and seconded by Johnson to not change the existing ordinance at this time,

to make sure that residents follow all guidelines, and that the violators are dealt with. Yes: Monson, Johnson, Althaus, Blumer. No: Ramsay, Gould. Abstain: Stephan. Motion carried with four yes votes.

At this time the hearing was over and the majority of the public left the building.

**AUDITOR'S CONTRACT:** Keepers explained that the contract for the village auditor is up for renewal. This would be for 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 with \$200 cost of living increases each year beginning with the cost of \$13,300. Motion by Althaus, seconded by Monson to approve the contract as stated. Carried.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Monson, seconded by Johnson to adjourn. Carried.

7:40 p.m.

LAURIE K. KEEPERS, Clerk

Village of Albany