

VILLAGE OF SWANSEA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 8th, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Administrative Building Board Room at 1444 Boul Avenue, Swansea, IL 62226

**Attendees:** Board President Michael Leopold, Treasurer John Walter, Village Clerk Tyler Thompson, Village Administrator Ben Schloesser, Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer, Trustee Jeff Parker, Trustee Matt Lanter, Trustee Richard "Rocky" McDonald, Trustee Brian Thouvenot, Trustee Cary Lewis, Police Department Chief Matt Blomberg, Fire Department Chief Chris Tell, Building and Zoning Director Joseph Iliff, and Director of Public Works Rick Tucker

**Absent:**

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**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Held 6:00 to 7:10

Chair: Trustee Neumeyer; Vice-Chair: Trustee Parker                      Members: Trustees Lanter, Lewis V, McDonald, Thouvenot

1. *Executive Session: "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity." 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).*

**Motion to Enter: Made by Trustee Neumeyer, seconded by Trustee Lewis**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**Motion to Exit: Made by Trustee Thouvenot, seconded by Trustee Lewis**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

2. Deputy Chief Howard Tuition Reimbursement Request

**Motion to Forward: Made by Trustee Neumeyer, seconded by Trustee Parker**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

3. Chief Blomberg Tuition Reimbursement Request

**Motion to Forward: Made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee Parker**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

4. Pay Reclassification Notice Dave Seger- Public Works Department

Trustee McDonald asked if Dave still has to work 40 hours a week and if he gets overtime if he works more. The Director of Public Works said no. The Building and Zoning Director said he wouldn't get overtime and he would get time off the next week. Trustee McDonald wants discussion about it at the next meeting.

**Motion to Forward: Made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee Thouvenot**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**Motion to Adjourn: Made by Trustee Neumeyer, seconded by Trustee Parker**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Meeting Not Held

Chair: Trustee Lanter; Vice-Chair: Trustee Thouvenot                      Members: Trustees Lewis V, McDonald, Neumeyer, Parker

**Meeting Not Held**

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:** Held 7:10 to 7:14

Chair: Trustee Lewis V.; Vice-Chair: Trustee McDonald                      Members: Trustees Lanter, Neumeyer, Parker, Thouvenot

1. Ord. No. \_\_\_\_ An Ordinance Regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act for the Village of Swansea  
Trustee Lewis said he and the Village Administrator had a conversation about it and the Village goes above and beyond already. The Village Administrator said guidance has finally been provided as IML legal counsel said non home rule communities should opt out of the new legislation. The Village Administrator said the Village already goes above and beyond and the only changes would be administrative challenges. He doesn't know how the time off would work for volunteer firefighters. IML legal counsel determined the Village should opt out. Trustee Lewis said the Village is already in accordance and it would be in our best interest to opt out. Trustee Lanter said he was in a webinar last week with the Department of Labor and said there was no final ruling on whether municipalities could opt out. The Village Administrator said this is the IML template drop out ordinance and it's what IML legal counsel says. Trustee Neumeyer asked what happens if the Village doesn't opt out. Trustee McDonald said every 40 hours workers get an hour off.

**Motion to Forward: Made by Trustee Lewis, seconded by Trustee McDonald**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**Motion to Adjourn: Made by Trustee Lewis, seconded by Trustee Thouvenot**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Held 7:14 to 7:39

Chair: Trustee Thouvenot; Vice-Chair: Trustee Lanter                      Members: Trustees Lewis V, McDonald, Neumeyer, Parker

1. *Executive Session: "Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting." 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).*

Done at the same time as other executive session.

2. Reporting on Code Enforcement Cases

The Building and Zoning Director said there was indication from Trustees that they wanted details about the more prominent cases, so he included more details about them. He said it is up to date about the status of them. The two houses on Brackett Street have been scheduled for the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> for demolition. The Clara Street house is being demolished by the owner. The bulk is gone but some debris still remains. Trustee McDonald said it hasn't changed in over a month. The Building and Zoning Director said they still have an active demolition permit and if they continue to not remove the rest the Village will tell them to finish. Trustee McDonald asked when the permit expires. The Building and Zoning Director said he does not have it on hand. The Building and Zoning Director said it gives description of what is required for a property to be demolished and it has to be in a condition that can't be repaired. The Village Administrator asked if there is appetite to strengthen it. Trustee Thouvenot said a house of Thouvenot Lane is a thorn in their side and it's owned by someone out of state. He said they are a bad actor. The Village Administrator said they don't disagree. Trustee Thouvenot said they have to be aware and have the owners of properties know the Village will be strict. Board President Leopold asked the Village Administrator to come to the next meeting with suggestions to strengthen it. Trustee Lewis didn't think it needs to be strengthened they just need to enforce it. He said the example Trustee Thouvenot gave is not a habitable property. Trustee Neumeyer would like the papers to show the day they were informed of the problems of the house. She said the papers the Building and Zoning Director gave tell her nothing. The Village Administrator asked if she wants to see closed cases in the report. Trustee Neumeyer said no. Ben said we are happy to but in the past we have been asked to provide updates. Thouvenot said even if they are closed there could be continuing issues. The Village Administrator said they can't predict if an owner will have more issues after one is solved. Trustee Parker said they need to concentrate on the major things, not people having unlicensed vehicles in their driveway. The Village Administrator agreed but said these are moving targets and the most important things can change. He said months ago there were problems with derelict vehicles and staff was asked to address that. Board President Leopold said they need to address all of these problems and wanted the rules to be tightened up. A member of the public said one of her residents in her mobile home park on Alexa Drive was concerned about homeless people and stolen bikes on her property. She said when she goes by the Knolls she sees beautiful Swansea, but when she goes down 159 she sees a different Swansea. She is concerned about boarded up buildings on 159. She is concerned about the mobile home park on Smelting Works called Pleasant Valley. She said no one should live like that and wants to hold property owners and renters accountable. She said 4 Gebhardt Drive is still standing and it's the epicenter of homeless people. She ran into Bob Trentman and he has some suggestions on what Saint Clair County can do. She said houses need to be properly maintained. Board President Leopold said thank you and asked the Building and Zoning Director for a list. The Village Administrator said he will make a list. Board President Leopold said they need to work on cleaning this up. Trustee McDonald said the mobile home park across from the police station has a house that does not have a roof. The member of the public said it was in the list. The Building and Zoning Director said the owner stated they would demolish it. Trustee McDonald asked if a permanent dumpster was allowed to be in someone's driveway. The Building and Zoning Director wrote down the address. Board President Leopold said they need to address all these issues, and the Village should have someone in place to do this. The Building and Zoning Director said they have active code cases. Board President Leopold asked Trustee McDonald to make a list. The Village Administrator said there is conflict among board members on priorities. Board President Leopold said everything is important and the Village should address everything.

3. Discussion Item – Code Enforcement

4. Discussion Item – Property Acquisition

Tabled. A member of the public asked about the issues raised at the last meeting. Board President Leopold said the attorney just left.

**Motion to Adjourn: Made by Trustee Thouvenot, seconded by Trustee Neumeyer**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Held 7:39 to 7:45**

Chair: Trustee Parker; Vice-Chair: Trustee Lewis V.

Members: Trustees Lanter, McDonald, Neumeyer, Thouvenot

1. Lodging for Deputy Fire Chief Little for His Fire Inspector I Class in Champaign, IL for the dates of 01/28-2/1/2024  
Bestwestern was the best bid.

**Motion to Forward: Made by Trustee Parker, seconded by Trustee Neumeyer**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

2. Discussion Item: Changing the Previous Resolution to Purchase 5 Sets of Globe Turnout Gear for \$18,215.00 and Look at Purchasing a Compatible Brand from Lion for \$17,475.00 for 6 Sets of Gear  
Chief Tell said the Board approved purchasing turnout gear from Globe. Department members recommended Lion and a dealer that sells Lion approached him. Lion will give a free set. Last time the Village ordered from globe it took eight months. He said they can receive from Lion in four months. Trustee Parker asked if needs to be brought back as a resolution. The Village Administrator said no. Trustee McDonald asked if they can do this since it was a bid process. Chief Tell said it's

different. A member of the public said it wasn't a formal bid. The Village Administrator said the Village is allowed to determine which equipment it prefers and there is only one dealer.

**Motion to Forward: Made by Trustee Neumeyer, seconded by Trustee Parker**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

3. Chief Blomberg Elected 3rd VP of the FBI National Academy Associates Railsplitters Executive Board  
Trustee Parker said it is just for information. In four years Chief Blomberg will be president. There is no compensation but it's a nice honor. Board President Leopold said to put something in the Swansea Report about it.

4. New School Resource Officer for 2024 – K9 Hamilton Retired  
Marquis Jones is the new SRO and started last Thursday. The Principal said he is doing good. He has to go to SRO school in April. Tutterow is going back on patrol, so Hamilton has been retired.

**Motion to Adjourn: Made by Trustee Parker, seconded by Trustee Lanter**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Meeting Not Held**

Chair: Trustee McDonald; Vice-Chair: Trustee Parker

Members: Trustees Lanter, Lewis V. Neumeyer, Thouvenot

**Meeting Not Held**

**CULTURAL COMMITTEE: Meeting Not Held**

Chair: Trustee Lewis V.; Vice-Chair: Trustee McDonald

Members: Trustees Lanter, Neumeyer, Parker, Thouvenot

**Meeting Not Held**

**SWANSEA REPORT COMMITTEE: Meeting Not Held**

Chair: Trustee Neumeyer; Vice-Chair: Trustee Lanter

Members: Trustees Lewis V, McDonald, Parker, Thouvenot

**Meeting Not Held**

# VILLAGE OF SWANSEA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 7:50 p.m. to 8:21 p.m.

Administrative Building Board Room at 1444 Boul Avenue, Swansea, IL 62226

**Attendees:** Board President Michael Leopold, Treasurer John Walter, Village Clerk Tyler Thompson, Village Administrator Ben Schloesser, Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer, Trustee Jeff Parker, Trustee Matt Lanter, Trustee Richard "Rocky" McDonald, Trustee Brian Thouvenot, Trustee Cary Lewis, Police Department Chief Matt Blomberg, Fire Department Chief Chris Tell, Building and Zoning Director Joseph Iliff, and Director of Public Works Rick Tucker

**Absent:**

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I) Call to Order

II) Pledge Allegiance to The Flag

III) Roll Call

IV) Approval of Minutes

1. Board Minutes- December 18, 2023
  2. Committee Minutes- December 18, 2023
  3. Special Meeting Board Minutes- December 11, 2023
  4. Special Meeting Committee Minutes- December 11, 2023
  5. Economic and Development Executive Session Minutes- December 18, 2023
- Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee Parker**  
**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

V) Acceptance of Minutes

1. Park Board Minutes- December 9, 2023
- Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee Parker**  
**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

VI) Mayor's Announcements/Correspondence

1. Appointments  
Jim Riess is appointed to the Planning and Zoning board.  
**Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee Thouvenot**  
**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

VII) Village Attorney/Village Administrator-Announcements/Comments

The Village Administrator said he is talking to Heartlands about working together at Clinton Hills. Trustee Neumeyer asked if the Park Board heard anything about it. The Village Administrator said not yet but he will bring it when he knows more. Board President Leopold said a member of the Park Board could be there. The Village Administrator said Kristina is working on some retention initiatives that Trustee Lewis requested. He spoke to the owner of B's Family Kitchen about signage. They are open 4 to 8. Trustee Thouvenot said the old Swansea fish stand closed. Trustee Thouvenot said Muttley and Me has their dog wash open now. The Village Administrator said he spoke to Chris Byron and hopes to have a draft to the Board for further refinement by the end of the week. Trustee Lewis asked for a copy of the personnel handbook. Trustee McDonald asked about 1820 North Illinois. The Village Administrator said they just got an appraisal back and reached out last week. Trustee McDonald said a friend of the owner said the owner hadn't heard from the Village Administrator. The Village Administrator said he has had a handful of conversations with the Owner.

VII) Public Comment

A member of the public asked about the Llewellyn situation. Board President Leopold said the Village hasn't heard anything else about the Llewellyn situation. Trustee Lewis said there was a guy called Montgomery here that left. He left his name and phone number here.

IX) Report of Committees

A) Personnel Committee – Comments

1. *Executive Session: "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity." 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).*  
Done during committee.
2. Deputy Chief Howard Tuition Reimbursement Request  
**Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Neumeyer, seconded by Trustee Parker**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

3. Chief Blomberg Tuition Reimbursement Request

**Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Neumeyer, seconded by Trustee Parker**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

4. Pay Reclassification Notice Dave Seger- Public Works Department

Trustee McDonald asked if Dave gets overtime. The Village Administrator said salaried employees are exempt from receiving overtime and they receive flextime. Trustee McDonald would like to review that. Board President Leopold asked if he receives overtime right now. The Director of Public Works said yes and he would likely get called in after hours. The Village Administrator said it's state standard. Trustee Lanter asked if it would make sense for that position since Dave was plowing 20 hours this week. The Director of Public Works said it's like his position. The Village Administrator said it's up to Rick when Dave can flex those hours and that's the standard for communities. Trustee Parker said private businesses work as much as they have to and make more money.

**Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Neumeyer, seconded by Trustee McDonald**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**B) Finance Committee Report – Comments**

1. Approval of Bills

Board President Leopold asked about some voided bills and asked for more details in the future.

**Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee Neumeyer**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**C) Judiciary Committee – Comments**

1. Ord. No. 1952 An Ordinance Regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act for the Village of Swansea

**Motion for First Reading: Made by Trustee Neumeyer, seconded by Trustee Lewis**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**Motion to Suspend Rules: Made by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Lewis**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**Motion for Second Reading: Made by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Lanter**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Lanter, seconded by Trustee Lewis**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

**D) Community & Economic Development- Comments**

1. *Executive Session: "Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting." 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).*

Done during committee.

2. Reporting on Code Enforcement Cases

Done during committee.

**E) Public Safety Committee – Comments**

1. Lodging for Deputy Fire Chief Little for His Fire Inspector I Class in Champaign, IL for the dates of 01/28-2/1/2024

**Motion to Approve: Made by Trustee Parker, seconded by Trustee Neumeyer**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**

2. Chief Blomberg Elected 3rd VP of the FBI National Academy Associates Railsplitters Executive Board

Just for information.

3. New School Resource Officer for 2024 – K9 Hamilton Retired

Just for information.

**F) Public Works Committee – Nothing Requested**

**G) Cultural Committee – Nothing Requested**

**H) Swansea Report Committee – Nothing Requested**

**X) Old Business**

The Village Administrator said Michelle is doing an excellent job and by next meeting she should have the balances up to date. They are working on getting comparable numbers for Task. Trustee Lanter said when they were discussing rates the business owner said he couldn't do it cheaper. The Village Administrator said Boul Ave Phase Two will start working on property acquisition for sidewalks.

Trustee Thouvenot asked the Village Administrator to stay on top of Midwestern. The Village Administrator said it sounds like IDOT will be tough to work with unless there is a purchase. Trustee Thouvenot asked if the Village could purchase it. The Village Administrator said it could and he could inquire further. Trustee Lanter said IDOT refused to sell it years ago. The Village Administrator said he is unsure of the price. Board President Leopold said they identified several pieces of property that the Village owns that it might like to sell. The Village Administrator said he will bring it forward to see the appetite for selling. He asked if the Board was ok with it. They were.

**XI) New Business**

None

**XII) Announcements**

Chief Tell said the Fire Department Awards dinner is Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Parker said the Rotary Auction is Feb 24<sup>th</sup>.

**XIII) Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn: Made by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Lewis**

**Trustee Votes: All ayes**