

VILLAGE OF CATLIN

Commission Form of Municipal Government Adopted 1914 MEMBER ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

JUSTIN BARGO, Mayor, AUTUMN LANGE, Village Clerk 217-427-2136 Fax: 217-427-8118

109 S. SANDUSKY P.O. BOX 627 CATLIN, ILLINOIS 61817

Village of Catlin
County of Vermilion, State of Illinois
November 5, 2024

The Council of the Village of Catlin met in the Village Board room in regular session at 7:00pm with Mayor Justin Bargo presiding. Mayor Bargo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and instructed Village Clerk Autumn Lange to call roll.

Roll Call:

Mayor: Justin Bargo

Commissioners: Ross Wilson, Kevin Kirk, Fred Rinehart and Wanda Schmit present

Village Clerk: Autumn Lange

Also Present: Tad Beddow, Dave Biggerstaff, Mike Stiles, Roger Lange, Greg Phillips, Nick Beddow and Dennis Schmit

A motion was made by Wanda Schmit and Seconded by Fred Rinehart to approve the agenda for the meeting, November 5th, 2024.

Aye: Wilson, Kirk, Rinehart, Schmit and Bargo

A motion was made by Wanda Schmit and Seconded by Ross Wilson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on October 15, 2024.

Aye: Wilson, Kirk, Rinehart, Schmit and Bargo

A motion was made by Wanda Schmit and Seconded by Kevin Kirk to approve the minutes from the Executive Session held on October 15, 2024.

Aye: Wilson, Kirk, Rinehart, Schmit and Bargo

A motion was made by Ross Wilson and Seconded by Wanda Schmit to approve the bills presented.

Aye: Wilson, Kirk, Rinehart, Schmit and Bargo

Mayor Bargo instructed that he was going to make a public statement before going into Public Expression regarding the statements that have been made online and directed towards him personally. The action that was made by the Village to place the truck in front of the Trump sign that was facing the polling place was solely made by the mayor. It was made under his understanding of the electioneering laws. It is up in the air whether that law is from the property lines or the door of the polling place. He received an inquiry from a citizen early in the morning believing it was in violation, and he felt it was appropriate to block sight of the sign from the doors of the polling place. It was not a political decision and was made solely in the best interest of what he felt like obeying the law was. Whether it was right or wrong, it can be debated at a later date as it was not on the agenda for tonight.

Public Expression:

- Roger Lange stated there was a Harris/Walz sign across the street from the polling place that was even closer than the Trump sign that was not removed or blocked. The vehicle obstructing the sidewalk and stop sign for the four-way stop is concerning. If someone had blown the stop sign and didn't realize and the Village faced a lawsuit, it

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would be taxpayers' money on the line, and this is concerning for a tax paying citizen. He believes that the Village should've remained neutral. Wanda Schmit expressed that this is a Non-Partisan board bottom line and if she had been given the inquiry, she probably would've done the same thing as the mayor. The mayor reiterated that this was not a political statement of any sort but a response to an inquiry, the truck was not illegally parked and blocking the stop sign from the yellow curb, but agreed it was on the sidewalk. Roger Lange questioned if he parked his truck on the sidewalk as the village truck had, would that be something he would face repercussions for and the mayor responded that he was not sure and if he illegally parked the truck by having it on the sidewalk, he encourages it to be handled. The mayor stated that the post made on Facebook incited hatred towards the Village when the intention of the mayor was to find a resolution to the inquiry, nothing political, and Wanda Schmit agreed with him. Roger Lange asked the board if they reached out to the Village Attorney or the Election Committee to determine whether it was legal or illegal due to electioneering laws to which they replied that had not reached out to anyone. Lange encouraged the board to find out more answers. The mayor instructed that they would take all the comments into consideration and report on it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Rinehart: Commissioner of Accounts and Finance

Motion to approve 1 building permit by Fred Rinehart and Seconded by Kevin Kirk:
712 Westwood Dr (Brooke Chambliss) – Installation of Roof Mounted Solar Panels

Commissioner Rinehart also highlighted the Budget vs. Actuals report and expressed that the Village is doing well as we are halfway through our fiscal year.

Commissioner Schmit: Commissioner of Public Health and Safety

Commissioner Schmit has contacted our IDNR Grant Coordinator and our withdrawal from the Butler Branch Recreational Park grant will be processed hopefully within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Wilson: Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvement

Commissioner Wilson stated there was an outstanding bill with Ribbe Trucking to which the mayor stated we will use the max amount of MFT funds allowed and the rest will be paid from the budget.

Commissioner Wilson expressed that there was a complaint regarding the branch overhang on Vermilion St specifically made to the state representative, Adam Niemerg, and they are going to cut a few branches but ultimately, all the other branches are fine.

He also let the board know that he has a meeting scheduled with Brock Read from Conxxus/Metro soon with the public works employees to discuss the damages that need to be repaired and how they will be handled.

Commissioner Kirk: Commissioner of Public Property

Motion to approve the hiring of Ridge Plumbing to install 28-30 water meters in the Village that still need to be replaced at \$82.00 per unit by Kevin Kirk and Seconded by Ross Wilson.

Aye: Kirk, Wilson, Rinehart, Schmit and Bargo

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Motion to approve the hiring of Ridge Plumbing to repair the leaking valve for Pump #2 totaling \$1,636.00 by Kevin Kirk and Seconded by Ross Wilson.

Aye: Kirk, Wilson, Rinehart, Schmit and Bargo

Mayor Bargo:

The mayor will be moving forward with the GoGov Notification System that was previously approved at a prior board meeting. The board was waiting it out to make sure all financial implications would be okay but they confirmed everything will be good so we will start the process and be sending information to residents in the near future.

The Village of Catlin received a \$2,000 Estate Donation from a previous village resident and determining how the funds will be used will be added to the next agenda.

Tad Beddow, Chief of Police:

The tornado sirens did not go off yesterday morning and the fire district is aware of this, and we are awaiting more information.

The Chief of Police had emergency surgery at the end of last month so he will be on light duty for further notice until cleared by his doctor to go back to full duty.

Dave Biggerstaff, Property Manager:

There has not been a city court judge appointed still but they are hopeful they will have one by November 19th, 2024, and hopefully by the first of the year, all city court matters will be up to date.

Dave encouraged the board to add approving Scanics, LLC to digitize all our property files to our next agenda. He has reviewed their proposal and thinks it would be a great idea for the Village employees to easily access all property files.

Attorney Andrew Mudd will also be attending the board meeting on November 19th, 2024, to discuss his legal services and how he could benefit the village.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:43pm by Kevin Kirk and Seconded by Wanda Schmit

Aye: Kirk, Wilson, Rinehart, Schmit and Bargo

Autumn Lange, Village Clerk

Justin Bargo, Mayor