

VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM
106 E SOUTH STEET, WEST SALEM ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF EDWARDS

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 29, 2024

MINUTES

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10 **1. Call to Order:**

Mayor Jeffrey Bradham called the Board Meeting of the Village of West Salem to order on April 29, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. The Meeting was held in the West Salem Board Room of Village Hall.

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15 **2. Innovation:**

Trustee Gerlach led the invocation.

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18 **3. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Trustee Jerry Bradham led the pledge.

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21 **4. Roll Call:**

Trustees Present

Trustees Absent

Jeffrey Bradham, Mayor

Jerry Bradham

George Gerlach

Royce Jones

Chris Ray

Chris Ristvedt

Aaron Winter

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31 Others Present: Harvey Fenton, Fire Chief; Cynthia Fuerst, Village Clerk.

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33 **5. Public Discussion/Comments from Audience:**

None

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36 **6. Purpose:**

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38 **A. Discussion and/or Approval of FY2024-2025 Annual Budget**

Trustee/Finance Committee Chair George Gerlach reviewed the Budget Proposal Prepared by Treasurer Kelli Higgins. The total proposed Expenditures for FY2024/25 are \$1,162,558.00; anticipated new Revenues for FY2024/25 are \$940,968.00.

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43 **Motion:** It was moved by Trustee George Gerlach and seconded by Trustee Chris Ristvedt to approve the FY2024/2025 Budget Proposal as presented. Motion passed by Roll Call

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45 **Vote:**

47 **Ayes:** Trustees Bradham, Gerlach, Jones, Ray, Ristvedt, Winter

48 **Nays:** -

49 **Abstain:** -

50 **Absent:** -

51
52 **B. Discussion and/or Approval of Extending the Contract for Refuse Collection**

53 The Village's current contract for refuse services with Republic Services will be expiring
54 on June 1st. Republic is willing to extend the contract for another three to five years with the
55 same terms as the current contract. The Village has been overall satisfied with the refuse
56 services provided with Republic, and felt that locking in the rates for five years made good
57 financial sense.

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59 **Motion:** It was moved by Trustee Chris Ray and seconded by Trustee Jerry Bradham to
60 forego the bidding process and extend the contract for Refuse Service with Republic
61 Services of Indiana, L.P. for five years. Motion passed by **Roll Call Vote:**

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63 **Ayes:** Trustees Bradham, Gerlach, Jones, Ray, Ristvedt, Winter

64 **Nays:** -

65 **Abstain:** -

66 **Absent:** -

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68 **C. Discussion and/or Approval of Nuisance Properties Procedures**

69 Trustee Chris Ristvedt shared a Nuisance Properties list with the Board. As discussed at the
70 April Board meeting, several of these addresses have been on the list for many years. The
71 Village has mailed numerous courtesy letters asking property owners to take care of their
72 residents, without success. He is seeking input from the Board on how best to address these
73 properties.

74
75 The Mayor stated however the Village decides to proceed that the process must be cleared
76 by our Attorney. He explained that while it does takes time to get things done legally, the
77 Village has made progress. He pointed out that the Board has recently voted to use TIF
78 monies to pay for the demolition of two dilapidated properties. He stated that while there is
79 an upfront cost, that once the properties are clean-up there will be interest in developing the
80 properties. Once the properties are back on the tax rolls, the Village and the community will
81 come out ahead in three to five years

82
83 There was agreement that the Village's initial focus should be on the properties located
84 alone the main thoroughfares of the Village. Addressing these properties will have a big
85 impact because of their visibility. It is hoped that other residents will be inspired to take
86 better care of their own properties when they see the Village is serious about enforcing the
87 current Ordinances.

89 The Mayor said he would speak with the Director of Public Works Tod Goble about
90 mowing properties that do not respond to the Violation Notice sent for Unlawful Weed
91 Growth. He will track his time and submit it to the Treasurer so that the property owner
92 may be billed appropriately.
93

94 There was some discussion about how to handle a situation where a house is in such poor
95 shape that it appears to be unfit for habitation, yet there are people residing in the house. It
96 was stressed that the Village does not want to turn anyone out on the street. There are
97 programs, individuals, and/or groups in the community that may be able to offer assistance
98 if needed.
99

100 There was agreement that the Village did not need a dedicated budget line to proceed with
101 this effort at this time. If needed, the Village can use TIF funds to cover the legal fees and
102 demolition costs of acquiring one or two properties in the next fiscal year.
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104 **D. Discussion and/or Approval of a Liquor License**

105 Tabled until the next regularly scheduled May Village Board Meeting. The Village is still
106 waiting to hear from the Illinois State Police regarding the background checks required for
107 the license.
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109 **7. Adjournment: Time 7:26 PM.**
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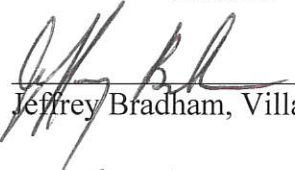
111 **Motion:** It was moved by Trustee Jerry Bradham and seconded by Trustee Royce Jones to
112 adjourn. Motion passed by Roll Call Vote:
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114 **Ayes:** Trustees Bradham, Gerlach, Jones, Ray, Ristvedt, Winter

115 **Nays:** -

116 **Abstain:** -

117 **Absent:** -
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120 _____
121 Jeffrey Bradham, Village Mayor

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123 _____
124 Cynthia Fuerst, Village Clerk