



**MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
MAY 8, 2023
28 S DRAKE AVE
CLAYCOMO, MISSOURI 64119**

Those in attendance: Chairman Terry Bradich, Trustee Mark Benton, Trustee Larry Barrera, Trustee Renee Hoppe, Trustee David Jett, Village Clerk Melody Wymore, Police Chief Matt Coonce, and Fire Chief Steve Shaumeyer

Chairman Bradich called to recess the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2023, at 7:00 PM. Trustee Barrera motioned to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Jett. All yeas, motion carried.

Chairman Bradich called the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2023, to order at 7:00 PM.

Trustee Jett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Police Chief Coonce recognized K-9 Tank's service, achievements and retirement. Det. Lorensen was present with K-9 Tank. Det. Lorensen spoke of cases where Tank came through when "regular searches" would have failed. He found drugs and a handgun under the hood of a vehicle stopped behind Claycomo Plaza. He also told us about Tank being instrumental in reuniting autistic children with their families. Chief Coonce remembered Tank finding a suspect up in a tree. Tank is Claycomo Police Department's first K-9 Officer. He must retire after only 4 years, since the legalization of marijuana. Chief Coonce recognized Dave Johnson, the owner of Fire House Subs, in Liberty, MO. They are responsible for the grant that brought Tank to our Village. A canvas photo of K-9 Tank was presented to him in appreciation. Mr. Johnson shared with us that they donated 3 other grants for K-9 officers as well. He credits his staff and customers who "round up" with the ability to give these grants. They also donated an automatic CPR machine and other fire equipment to Pleasant Valley Fire Department around the same time that we got Tank. Chief Coonce then recognized Dr. Wes Cowan of Premiere Veterinary Care, who donated all of Tank's veterinary services. A canvas photo of Tank was also presented to him in appreciation for all his donated time and service, over the years. Det. Lorensen and Chief Coonce presented a canvas photo of K-9 Tank to Chairman Bradich in appreciation for the support from the board and the Village throughout Tank's career. The photo will be hung at City Hall. Motor Officer Jared Sartin presented a plaque to Det. Lorensen in recognition and honor for his time and service with K-9 Tank. Det. Lorensen has been our K-9 officer for 4 years and a traffic officer for 5 years. He will continue to be a K-9 officer for Claycomo. Det. Lorensen

shared with us that all their training is free, and they train with the KCPD. Tank's replacement will be at no cost to the Village through a Replacement Grant written by Det. Lorenson and Motor Officer Sartin. Many of the KCPD dogs also had to retire due to the change in status of marijuana. Det. Lorenson thanked everybody for their support.

Chairman Bradich read a tribute about El Sombrero, the Barrera Family and specifically Trustee Larry Barrera. Trustee Jett thanked Trustee Barrera for being his friend and taking the time over the years to talk to him and show him things. He thanked him for being his friend and his family. Trustee Benton told him that it has been a pleasure to get to know him. He offered his support as he had been through the same process Larry is facing. He wished him the best of luck and reminded him that they would always be there for him. Trustee Hoppe thanked Trustee Barrera for all his support and guidance since they met. Village Clerk Wymore thanked Larry for the amazing food at El Sombrero and for being an awesome board member. Fire Chief Shaumeyer shared that he and other KCFD Academy Staff members would often attend Taco Tuesday at El Sombrero, long before he started as Fire Chief for Claycomo. He said he will miss the restaurant, thanked him for everything and wished him well in his retirement. Police Chief Coonce expressed, from a professional standpoint, his thanks for many years of support from El Sombrero and the Barrera family for the Police Department. They have always helped with events and sponsorship. On a personal note, Chief Coonce spoke of many birthday dinners shared at El Sombrero. He shared how he would miss the restaurant and thanked Larry for everything over the years. Trustee Barrera expressed his thanks for everyone's kind words. He shared that over the 59 years, there was only 1 break in, and that person was hungry. He credits that in part to being so close to the Police Station and having a close relationship with so many in the Village. On behalf of the Village, Chairman Bradich presented Trustee Barrera with a plaque thanking El Sombrero and the Barrera Family for 59 years of hard work, community commitment and excellent food. Trustee Barrera thanked everyone.

Trustee Jett motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2023, seconded by Trustee Benton. Roll call, all yeas. Motion carried.

Trustee Jett motioned to approve the Payment of Bills for April 21, 2023, through May 4, 2023, seconded by Trustee Hoppe. Roll call, all yeas. Motioned carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Chief Coonce advised that the "No Parking" signs for the new church group on S. Poe have been ordered but have not arrived yet. The signs that were ordered read: NO PARKING THIS SIDE OF STREET. When they arrive, Public Works will post 3 of them on the west side of the street. He informed us that the new K-9 Unit (2020 Dodge Charger) is now equipped and on the road. He stated that tomorrow (5/9/23) they will begin the process of getting pictures taken of the old K-9 Unit and getting them posted so they can start taking bids to sell it. Chairman Bradich spoke of a conversation with Chief Coonce, last week regarding K-9 Tank and the possibility of possibly donating him to the right agency if needed. He presented the needs of a local School Resource Officer with a very low budget that may be in the need of a K-9 Officer. It was agreed by all board members to donate Tank if the need presents itself. Chief

Coonce also stated that Det. Lorensen is partial to having Tank continue to stay with him. Either way, he will be well taken care of.

Fire Chief Shaumeyer reminded the board of a change within his position at KCFD. He has officially moved to the Academy, as of today. His hours will be hit and miss for a few weeks. Then it will even back out. Trustee Barrera asked if it would be too overwhelming for him. Chief Shaumeyer replied, "No." and went on to say that he has great support from both KCFD & CFD.

Village Clerk Wymore had no old business.

Public Works had no old business.

Jason, from EDC had no old business.

Dale, from the Zoning Board had no old business.

No representative from the Park Board.

Trustees Barrera informed the board of a very nice new wooden fence that has been installed at 135 S. Poe. He feels that they are taking the advice of the community and working toward making a better impression with the Village.

Trustee Jett spoke about the Mears big hauler trucks and dump trucks using Park to access Mears. They have been told several times before that they may only access Mears via 69 to S. Drake. Chief Coonce agreed to speak with them again. Chief Coonce also brought up the issue that several Mears employees have been using our parking lot to park their vehicles and walking to their building. This is now happening on a daily basis. He plans to address that when he speaks with them as well. Trustee Jett suggested that Chairman Bradich accompany him to discuss the Village's issues. Trustee Barrera agreed with that suggestion. Trustee Benton asked Chief Coonce about ticketing them for these violations. Chief Coonce responded that he has alerted all officers about this issue, and they will be looking out. They have been told to issue them citations, if seen.

Trustee Benton and Hoppe had no old business.

There were no residents with old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Chief Coonce requested permission to order a shed similar to the one that Public Works has, to store items and equipment that are currently being stored either in the garage or outside the building. He priced them around \$900. Chairman Bradich asked if the sheds he was looking at had floors. Chief Coonce said yes. He added that the purchase would be made from the Police budget. As it is more than \$500, he is requesting permission. Chairman Bradich added that things setting outside the building "looks pretty bad" and that the equipment out there are items that the officers often need quickly. If there is a need to block off a street or divert traffic, it is necessary

for them to have quick access instead of having to go all the way to the Public Works building to get the equipment. Trustee Barrera made a motion to approve the request for a storage shed. Trustee Jett added that the purchase is not to exceed \$1,000.00. Hoppe seconded. Chairman Bradich added that Public Works would take on the assembly of the shed. Roll call, all yeas. Motioned carried.

Chief Shaumeyer informed of a tentative contract agreement. There is an upcoming meeting on 5/12/23. He will have more information after that date.

Village Clerk Wymore had no new business.

Chairman Bradich advised that Public Works is cutting grass and trimming trees. He also mentioned that people are dumping trash, clothing, and appliances in our parks. There are also large rocks being found on Poe. They could have been the result of someone throwing rocks from the bridge, trying to hit vehicles or pedestrians. Trustee Barrera also mentioned that the bridge on Poe where the rocks have been found, is getting tagged. Trustee Jett shared that he had spoken with Chairman Bradich about painting the places that were marked on the bridge. He also shared a story that was recently in the news, about teens throwing rocks from an overpass (in Texas). They had been doing so since January. One of the rocks finally struck and killed a driver and changed that young man's life forever. Trustee Benton added that there was an incident with a lady he knows where that happened and shattered her windshield. Chief Coonce also said that it has happened in our Village (not recently). When calls come in, they try their best to get to the location as quickly as possible. It usually happens on N Bryant, on the overpass of I-35. Chairman Bradich asked everyone present to contact Public Works if they see anyone dumping or things that get dumped. Public Works will pick it up, bring it to the Police Station, where they will attempt to find a name and address of the people who dumped the trash, and they will be issued a citation.

The Economic Development Council had no new business. Jason shared that they are still in research stages and will bring more to the board as it becomes available.

Zoning Board informed of an upcoming meeting on Monday, May 15, at 7:00 PM.

No representative from the Park Board.

Trustee Barrera let everyone know that they are selling El Sombrero (the building and the business) the property, as well as Barrera, Inc.

Trustee Jett brought to discussion social media and posts targeting the current board as well as calling out some members of the board by name. This has been an ongoing issue for a while but reached a peak over the weekend. The posts and comments were rude and uncalled for. They were made by a member of 2 of our boards (Park Board and Zoning Board). Difference of opinions can be respected. In his opinion, when you hold a position on this board, or a sub-board of this Village, there is an expectation that you will hold yourself with class, dignity, and professionalism, regardless of any disagreement. Terry Sulzberger (who was not present at the meeting) made numerous comments and posts that reflect negatively on this board. He also

called out 2 members of the board, by name, for being unable to attend the plaque ceremony for Trustee Barrera and El Sombrero. He made a motion to remove Terry Sulzberger from the Parks Board and the Zoning Board, effective immediately due to misconduct in using social media to badger and poke at this current Board of Trustees while holding a position on a sub-board. Trustee Benton seconded. Roll call, 1 abstain/4 yeas. Motioned carried. Trustee Hoppe suggested that they implement a Code of Conduct, so everyone knows the expectation when serving the Village. Trustee Jett agreed and suggested that they add that to the agenda for their next working meeting. Chairman Bradich added that there is a Code of Conduct for all village employees and that this one should be very similar to that.

Trustee Benton had no new business.

Trustee Hoppe has had residents express their concern to people walking their dogs in the parks, and not picking up their pets' droppings. She suggested installing doggy bag dispensers and trash bins, in both parks for pet owners to use. Trustee Barrera agreed that would be a great idea. He shared his experience of walking his dog in the parks and thinks that would be very helpful.

Chairman Bradich assigned the task of pricing the dog stations to Village Clerk Wymore. He also asked that she compose a letter to Mr. Sulzberger.

Chairman Bradich announced that the village received 2 (free) new signs, courtesy of the government. The electronic billboards will be used in front of City Hall. Trustee Benton will be handling the installation. Chairman Bradich has taken the old signs out. Each side is programable.

Resident Amber shared that she walks her dog in Mildred Keeney Park (where the soccer field used to be) and picks up after her dog. She informed of parasites and diseases that can be transmitted, not only from other dogs, but also wildlife (fox, racoons, etc.). She is strongly in favor of the doggy stations. Resident Shawn suggested possibly creating a dog park within the old soccer field. Most dog parks are larger than that field, also fenced. They also allow for different sized dogs. Trustee Jett proposed a fenced area and a sign that says, "Dog Park". Amber suggested, "Pets Permitted". She also brought up the unknown of whether or not other dogs in the area are vaccinated or not. Trustee Barrera agreed. Trustee Benton agreed that an area where pets are welcomed was a great idea.

Chairman Bradich brought up the old goal posts that were in that soccer field. They are in storage in rough shape, rusting away. Trustee Barrera reminded everyone that the goal posts were donated. They discussed that the area was not maintained on a regular basis. Dale, from the Zoning Board added that the Zoning Board removed the posts but did not throw them away because they had been donated. Trustee Barrera suggested that if the posts are in really bad shape, they should be discarded. Chairman Bradich added that at least one of them was bent beyond repair. It was decided that they would be cut up and discarded.

Chairman Bradich moved on to sign permits in the packets. Dollar Tree has requested 4 sign permits for the location that was previously Walgreens. Trustee Jett questioned the measurements. Trustee Barrera agreed that it was confusing. They would like clarification on the

measurements. Trustee Benton compared the measurements to the Dollar Tree signs that he has seen and tried to guess the measurements from there. It was agreed that there was definitely a need for clarification. Once clarification is made, Village Clerk Wymore is to contact each Board Member.

The floor was opened to discussion of installing Google Fiber at City Hall and in the Community Building. Village Clerk Wymore gave quotes from Google Fiber (\$250/month for City Hall and \$100/month for the Community Building). The upgrade is needed to efficiently operate City Hall and take payments on court nights. Also, the phones are internet based and there are routinely issues with the internet being down and the phone system is lost as well. Chairman Bradich added that he has had issues several times in trying to connect his laptop to the internet in the Community Building. He also stated that on recommendation, there have been several pieces of equipment purchased that they were told would help wi-fi connectivity in the Community Building, but all have failed. Trustee Jett motioned to install Google Fiber at City Hall and the Community Building. Hoppe seconded. All yeas. Motion carried.

Chairman Bradich brought up the Budget for discussion. All agreed, there was no need for further discussion.

Trustee Jett addressed Chief Coonce concerning the Police monthly stats that were included in the packet. He is having troubles posting them on his Claycomo Neighborhood Watch page. It was discussed that a change in format was needed to make that post. Deputy Village Clerk Hamilton was in the audience. She reached out to Chief Coonce and offered to get that document into a working format for Trustee Jett. Trustee Jett asked Deputy Clerk Hamilton to send him the new format at her convenience.

Trustee Benton addressed a “tent city” rising up behind the Community America building, across the street from the Ford plant. Chief Coonce said that he would reach out to Pleasant Valley PD and make sure they are aware.

Chairman Bradich opened the floor to any further business with the board. There was no further business.

There is no reason to go into an Executive Meeting.

Trustee Barrera motioned to recess the regular meeting of May 8, 2023, at 8:05 pm. Seconded by Trustee Benton. All yeas. Motion carried.

Village Clerk Melody Wymore

Chairman of the Board Terry Bradich