



# VILLAGE OF BARTLETT

## BOARD MINUTES

### October 3, 2023

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Wallace called the regular meeting of October 3, 2023 of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Bartlett to order on the above date at 7:00 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustees Deyne, Gandsey, Gunsteen, Hopkins, LaPorte, Suwanski and President Wallace

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Village Administrator Paula Schumacher, Assistant Village Administrator Scott Skrycki, Human Resources Director Janelle Terrance, Management Analyst Joey Dienberg, Finance Director Todd Dowden, Public Works Director Dan Dinges, Civic Engineer Nick Talerico, Planning and Development Director Kristy Stone, Head Golf Professional Phil Lenz, Police Chief Geoff Pretkelis, Deputy Chief Will Naydenoff, Deputy Chief Rob Sweeney, Village Attorney Kurt Asprooth and Village Clerk Lorna Giles.

3. INVOCATION – President Wallace did the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. CONSENT AGENDA

President Wallace stated that all items marked with an asterisk on the agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. He further stated that there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a board member so requests, in which event, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered at the appropriate point on the agenda. He asked if there were any items a board member wished to remove from the Consent Agenda, or any items a board member wished to add to the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Deyne stated that he would like to add Item 12.F.1. Resolution, 2023-101-R, a Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the Village of Bartlett and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 Public Employees Division to the Consent Agenda.

President Wallace then recited each item that was on the Consent Agenda, including the nature of the matters being considered and other information to inform the public of matters being voted upon. He then stated that he would entertain a motion to Amend the Consent Agenda, and the items designated to be approved by Consent therein.

Trustee Deyne moved to Amend the Consent Agenda and that motion was seconded by Trustee Hopkins.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO AMEND THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSENT ITEMS THEREIN

AYES: Trustees Deyne, Gandsey, Gunsteen, Hopkins, LaPorte, Suwanski

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED



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Trustee Deyne moved to Approve the Amended Consent Agenda and that motion was seconded by Trustee Hopkins.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSENT ITEMS THEREIN

**AYES:** Trustees Deyne, Gandsey, Gunsteen, Hopkins, LaPorte, Suwanski

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

6. MINUTES – Covered and approved under the Consent Agenda.
7. BILL LIST – Covered and approved under the Consent Agenda.
8. TREASURER'S REPORT - None
9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The following Proclamations were read:

- A. Proclamation in Recognition of Police Pension Board Member Michael Poremba
- B. Arts DuPage Proclamation
- C. Proclamation for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bartlett Depot

Museum Director Pam Rohleder stated that 150 years is just a minute second in the world's history, but for Bartlett it is our entire history. Image yourself standing at Oak and Railroad Ave 150 years ago. There would have been nothing there except the trees on Luther and Sophia Bartlett's Cook Co. wood lot. The rest of their 600 plus acres of land and homestead laid in DuPage County where they were farmers. The Chicago and Pacific Railroad had approached the couple the year prior seeking to build a rail line from Chicago to Elgin. The railroad was seeking donations of that land along the route they wanted to build. The Bartlett realized the advantages of this new form of technology especially in the movement of farming goods to market. They said yes for the benefit of themselves and their farming neighbors. They also contributed money toward the building of the depot. I wonder what it must have been like to see and watch the construction of the rails and the building of our little depot. Not all communities can point to the exact spot where their roots began but in Bartlett we can, and that's our depot.

If you build it they will come. The January 1, 1876 Elgin Advocate reported, "Two years ago and a half ago there was no such town as Bartlett...But with the advent of the iron horse, it became necessary to have a station and when a station was decided upon, the town followed as a matter of course, and today we see a thriving village which has sprung up as if by magic, but with all evidences of being substantial and prosperous. For the previous November, freight receipts amounted to \$414.50, passenger tickets- \$177, milk about \$305. Contracts have been let for seven new houses, the steam mill of Carr & Lobdell has been running day and night to fulfill the demand. Its two run of stone ground 1,000 bushels every 24 hours Bartlett- will grow in importance and with a start already obtained, it is destined to become a thriving busy suburb of... Elgin.



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The depot was once the hub of activity in the Village with the station agent in charge. Our first agent, the Bartlett's son-in-law Oliver C. "Hutch" Hutchins, was well liked. His duties included handling all aspects of the railroad's freight traffic that delivered and picked up from businesses built along the tracks such as the grain mill, lumber yard and livestock pen. He sold tickets to those going to Elgin to shop or transfer onto to a long-distance passenger train, riders heading to Chicago to attend the theater and more. The sending and receiving of telegrams was also a duty of the agent. In the days of snail mail, a telegram was the text message of the day either from the railroad concerning train orders or people wishing to convey news quickly. How did people know the depot had telegraph abilities? All they had to do was look for the dot. The longest serving agent was Joe Charneskey in 1930.

The depot was our Village's first post office and Luther Bartlett our first postmaster. Mail in sacks, delivered via trains, were dropped on the mailbag hook, circled in red, located along the tracks, without the train even stopping. Bartlett's outgoing mail would be bagged and hung on the hook for pickup in the same manor. Residents initially came to the depot to collect their mail and parcels.

Residents have ridden the train for many reasons throughout our history. Let's meet just a few. Irene Kelly Schultz-lived in Chicago and rode the train to Bartlett on Sunday night teacher, charter member of the Bartlett Woman's Club, the only women on the board of Bartlett's Council of Defense, she along with other women laid the foundation for the formation of St. Peter Damian Catholic Church. Wartime- beginning with WW I and afterward the depot was the parting and retuning site for our service members. Fred Benicke in 1923, Fred, his mother, aunt and baby cousin boarded the Seydiltz in Bremen Germany to begin their new life in Bartlett Fred's stepfather met them at the Depot, business owner, played on the Bartlett Cubs and served as a volunteer fireman for 23 years. The depot whisked people away to new homes and lives. Anna and Effie Baxmann went out west to become Harvey Girls returning to Bartlett only to visit family.

As manufacturing businesses, like the Huntley Dairy, ceased operations and truck and commuter traffic increased post World War II, the role of the depot changed. Bartlett had evolved from a Village serving the surrounding farms reliant on the rails, to a Chicago bedroom community. The obsolete baggage room became the one-time office of the Northwest Suburban Mass Transit District in the 1970s. The tiny waiting room no longer held the commuters who overflowed onto the platform each workday. The grassy area around the depot turned into parking spaces. Time had made physical changes in the building with doors and windows relocated and/or removed and aluminum siding installed in the 1970s. As ridership grew, and the age and wear and tear on the depot began to show, the village's depot, the only original one left on the Milwaukee West Line and Chicagoland's fifth oldest station closed its doors on December 10, 2007. The following morning Bartlett's new Metra station opened to the east. But as we all know; the depot's story and prominence did not end that day.

In 2009, an extensive restoration began on the building preparing it for its new role. The depot was first lifted up and temporally relocated about 100 feet to the west so a proper foundation could be constructed. With the 1970s paneling removed from the walls, a small ticket window was discovered, most likely the original. A painted script "B" was discovered hidden on the end of one of the brackets. This served as inspiration for the museum's logo. All the doors and windows returned to its original placement and the exterior restored to clapboard with its original colors.

On September 12, 2010, the Depot once again opened to all as the Bartlett Depot Museum, operated by the Village of Bartlett. This free museum tells the stories of our rail history through changing exhibitions and programming for all ages.



## VILLAGE OF BARTLETT BOARD MINUTES October 3, 2023

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Today stand at Railroad and Oak Aves and what do you see a century and a half later? A Village that incorporated in 1891, experienced the advent of the schools, worship facilities, automobiles, electric lights, the telephone, running water, a sewer system, man landing on the moon (which by the way Bartlett was a part of), fire, library and park districts the computer, internet, business park and a growth to 41,000 plus residents. I think Luther and Sophia would be impressed and amazed with their vision of a railroad and the birth of a community which they named Bartlett. Don't you agree. Happy 150<sup>th</sup>.

### 10. QUESTION/ANSWER: PRESIDENT & TRUSTEES

Trustee Deyne recognized staff birthdays and anniversaries.

Trustee Gunsteen asked for an update on Prospect Avenue.

Public Works Director Dan Dinges stated that they will make it down to Hill and head east. There are three culvert pipes that cross Prospect that they have to go under. They should be off Prospect in 1-2 days except for the one piece that they need to return to in a couple of weeks.

Trustee Gunsteen stated that it is pretty tight and unsafe.

President Wallace stated that the sign says that there is a flagger and their was not. They are not putting enough into their safety efforts on that street.

Mr. Dinges stated that he will talk to them tomorrow.

Trustee Gunsteen asked if Route 59 and West Bartlett Road is still on pace to be cleaned up for the winter?

Mr. Dinges stated that they should be done with phase 1 around October 16 and they will then switch over to the north side.

Trustee Gunsteen hoped they would not run this through the winter.

Trustee Suwanski stated that she has had some people express concerns over the traffic backup on West Bartlett Road. Can we nudge IDOT along with the construction?

President Wallace talked about trucks holding up the intersection.

### 11. TOWN HALL

#### **Terry Witt, 471 S. Western Avenue**

Mr. Witt spoke about Bartlett being in one the largest trail networks in the country. We don't tell everyone about it. There are thousands of trail travelers out there. We could have 40,000 trail visits per year just coming into Bartlett. They should post map boards at all the entrances into Bartlett. We are an oasis – invite the people in.

### 12. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. BUILDING & ZONING COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN GUNSTEEN

Trustee Gunsteen stated that there was no report.



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**B. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN GANDSEY**

Trustee Gandsey introduced Issa's Venezuelan Food Restaurant.

Trustee Suwanski stated that she had some issues with this application and they will be adjusting some of the item dollar amounts.

Village Administrator Paula Schumacher stated that they do have the stipulation that if the amount decreases, they can decrease the award.

Economic Development Coordinator Tony Fradin stated that they would decrease it percentage-wise.

President Wallace asked about her question on a business plan for this entity.

Ms. Schumacher stated that since they have an existing business elsewhere, provided some more information on their business plan.

President Wallace stated that statistically, the first 5 years are the hardest. One of the things he would like to see is some kind of a business plan that shows what they are doing now and what is their business. Also, the improvements being made were not done by the landlord on behalf of the tenant.

Trustee Suwanski stated that they discussed firming up some of the definitions in our program and what defines a new venture. She would be more comfortable if they had clear definitions.

Trustee Gandsey requested to take a look at it during the strategic plan session.

Trustee Gandsey moved to approve a BEDA grant in the amount of \$17,000 to Issa's Venezuelan Restaurant and that motion was seconded by Trustee Deyne.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE A BEDA GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,000 TO ISSA'S VENEZUELAN RESTAURANT**

**AYES:** Trustees Deyne, Gandsey, Gunsteen, Hopkins, LaPorte, Suwanski

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**C. FINANCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN LAPORTE**

Trustee LaPorte stated that there was no report.

**D. LICENSE & ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN HOPKINS**

Trustee Hopkins stated that the Halloween Funfest 2.0 and Parade Permit Request was covered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

**E. POLICE & HEALTH COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN SUWANSKI**

Trustee Suwanski stated that there was no report.



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F. PUBLIC WORKS AND GOLF COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN DEYNE

Trustee Deyne stated that Resolution 2023-101-R, a Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the Village of Bartlett and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150 Public Employees Division; Resolution 2023-102-R, a Resolution Approving the Construction Engineering Services Agreement Between the Village of Bartlett and Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. and Resolution 2023-103-R, a Resolution Approving of the Non-Exclusive License Agreement Between the Village of Bartlett and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC were covered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

13. NEW BUSINESS - None

14. QUESTION/ANSWER PRESIDENT & TRUSTEES

President Wallace asked for any updates on Merry and Bright? Date?

Ms. Schumacher stated December 1<sup>st</sup> and they have an extensive tree memo with a few options. The Committee has done a fabulous job and it will be a fantastic event. From a handful of people on a snowy night to flip a switch to thousands of people in the park!

15. ADJOURN

President Wallace stated that the Board will adjourn and there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting immediately following. There being no further business to discuss,

Trustee Deyne moved to adjourn the regular Board meeting and that motion was seconded by Trustee Hopkins.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN

AYES: Trustees Deyne, Gandsey, Gunsteen, Hopkins, LaPorte, Suwanski

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Lorna Giles  
Village Clerk