



# VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE

*"A Great Place to Call Home"*

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## VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023 - 7:00 PM**

200 N. Hill Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

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### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by President Sattler

#### ROLL CALL

##### PRESENT

President Don Sattler  
Admin Chairman Owen Costanza  
Trustee Jeff Goings  
Trustee Dan Cheek  
Trustee Betsy Straw  
Finance Chairwomen Kristi Richardson  
Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski  
Treasurer Carina Boyd  
Engineer Chris Dopkins  
Public Works Director David Howe

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### APPROVAL OF PHONE PARTICIPATION (Roll Call)

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Voice Vote)

Motion made by Trustee Goings, Seconded by Admin Chairman Costanza. Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson  
Motion made by Trustee Richardson, Seconded by Admin Chairman Costanza to amend the agenda for item number 7 to read check disbursement paid before December 31st, 2023 in the amount of \$314861.59 in AP checks and then change the total to read \$337,119.03  
Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Voice Vote)**

1. Motion to approve minutes from November 8, 2023  
Motion made by President Sattler, Seconded by Trustee Straw to strike item 2 on unfinished business.  
Voting Yea: Trustee Straw  
Voting Nay: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Richardson  
President Sattler feels the motion and vote was illegal and wants it struck from the minutes.  
The board of Trustees and President discussed the motion.  
Motion made by Admin Chairman Costanza, Seconded by Trustee Cheek to approve the agenda as presented.  
  
Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson

**PUBLIC COMMENT** *Public Comment is encouraged. The Village Board will receive comments from the public, pursuant to State Statutes. Comments will be limited to five minutes on topics relating to the Village of Poplar Grove. Be further advised that matters brought up at this time may be referred to the appropriate committee or individual for further discussion or consideration.*

no public comment

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

2. Engineer Report, McMahan  
no questions
3. Public Works Report, David Howe  
Director Howe gave an update on the camera equipment for the board room
4. Treasurer Report, Carina Boyd  
no questions
5. Wastewater Report, TEST  
no questions
6. Attorney Report, Sosnowski Szeto  
Attorney Sosnowski provided a report to the Board detailing her concerns of the use of her name and image by the Village President Don Sattler on his Facebook page. The report also detailed her concerns about his conduct toward her, Attorney Kurlinkus, and members of Village staff since 2021.

## NEW BUSINESS

7. Motion to discuss/approve to approve check disbursement for payments scheduled to be paid prior to December 31, 2023, in the amount of \$315,846.35 in AP checks, \$18,501.30 in insurance expense checks, and \$4,253.14 EFTS for a total of \$338,603.79. Motion made by Admin Chairman Costanza, Seconded by Trustee Cheek. Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson
8. Motion to discuss/approve Settlement Agreement with MidFirst Bank. Motion made by Admin Chairman Costanza, Seconded by Trustee Straw. Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson  
Attorney Sosnowski went over the settlement agreement.
9. Motion to discuss/approve **Ordinance 2023-25** An Ordinance of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for all Workers Act. Motion made by Admin Chairman Costanza, Seconded by Trustee Richardson. Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson
10. Motion to discuss/approve **Resolution 2023-32** A Resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois authorizing Kristi Richardson as Chairperson of the Finance and Public Works Committee to perform necessary Village banking functions. Motion made by Admin Chairman Costanza, Seconded by Trustee Cheek. Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson
11. Motion to discuss/approve an RFP for repair and resurfacing of the tennis courts at Village Hall. Engineer Dopkins and Director Howe explained they would like more time to get the opinions of some contractors to see what needs to be done to the tennis courts. Motion made by Admin Chairman Costanza, Seconded by Trustee Cheek to postpone 60 days. Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson
12. Motion to discuss/approve Bruce Moore as Trustee to fill vacancy of Eric Miller to Poplar Grove Village Board. Motion made by Admin Chairman Costanza, Seconded by Trustee Straw to approve Bruce Moore as Trustee. Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson  
Motion made by Admin Chairman Costanza, Seconded by Trustee Richardson amend the motion to postpone the item until the second meeting in January. Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson

Trustee Costanza suggested that there be time for applicants to apply and would like a special meeting for the board to ask questions of all applicants about the proper vetting of candidate qualifications.

Dave Allgood- Mr. Allgood stated that the board by consensus set a date in the future to consider all interested parties. Mr. Allgood would like to know why this appointment of Bruce Moore is being considered. Mr. Allgood stressed that the Board should have a process to fill Board vacancies and should follow that process and interview all applicants and not just give lip service but do what you say you are going to do.

Voting Yea: Admin Chairman Costanza, Trustee Goings, Trustee Cheek, Trustee Straw, Trustee Richardson

13. Motion to discuss **Resolution 2023-22** A Resolution of the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois appointing an individual to fill a vacancy in the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion made by President Sattler, seconded by Trustee Cheek to discuss Resolution 2023-22

President Sattler began his comments by speaking about his son applying for a job with the Village. Trustee Costanza and Trustee Goings interrupted President Sattler to remind him that the motion on the floor was about appointing an individual to fill a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission and not about his son applying for a job with the Village. President Sattler replied that he should not be interrupted. President Sattler stated that he disagreed with the Village Attorneys regarding the number of votes that was needed in October 2023 for this item to pass. President Sattler stated that he missed the October meeting in which the item was originally discussed. President Sattler stated that President Pro Tem Eric Miller declared that the original vote of three to two when the Resolution first appeared on the October agenda to have failed as not receiving at least four votes and that determination was wrong. Attorney Sosnowski gave an overview on the statutes governing the matter. Attorney Sosnowski stated that she provided President Sattler with all of the relevant statutes in early November along with her opinion that an affirmative vote of the corporate authorities was required to pass the resolution, thereby requiring a minimum vote in the affirmative of at least four members of the Board. Attorney Sosnowski indicated further that she researched several years' worth of board minutes and did not find a single prior occasion where an appointment to the P&Z Commission received less than four votes.

President Sattler indicated that he disagreed with the opinion and that it made him want to cry too. Trustee Straw asked President Sattler whether or not he would consider filling the spots on P&Z that were actually vacant first. Trustee Richardson inquired with Attorney Sosnowski regarding the process and whether or not multiple spots on the P&Z could be filled in a single resolution. Attorney Sosnowski provided the Board counsel on the appointment process and statutes on appointments to P&Z and ZBA. Trustee Goings asked why President Sattler was insistent on wanting to appoint someone to Jason Vodnasky's seat on P&Z when Mr. Vodnasky attended meetings regularly and

there were other vacancies to fill. President Sattler indicated that there has been ongoing intimidation and harassment and Mr. Vodnasky chose to post on Facebook that he (President Sattler) was a pedophile. President Sattler indicated that he has received explicit text messages and emails. President Sattler indicated that he would not allow himself to be harassed by the Board. President Sattler indicated that he does little tests of the Village from time to time and that his son's application for a Village job was a test. President Sattler indicated that Attorney Sosnowski and Attorney Kurlinkus called him when his son applied for a Village job and that he told them not to talk to him that he was not the hiring manager. President Sattler said his son was never hired and never interviewed. President Sattler then made an accusation that his son's application, as a candidate for a Village position that was not hired, was unlawfully released by Attorney Sosnowski pursuant to a FOIA. President Sattler then stated that he was the one that would like to cry about how he has been treated by this Board. President Sattler also stated that he has been falsely accused of sexual harassment by this Board. President Sattler then referred to Attorney Sosnowski's earlier comments and told her what goes around comes around and that he has chosen not to be intimidated by this Board. President Sattler indicated that he was hurt and he maintains his composure. Trustee Goings indicated that President Sattler engages in theatrics and has not done anything for the Village. Trustee Goings opined that there is no intimidation and harassment going on by the Board, but that the Village President has chosen to work against the entire Board since day one. Trustee Goings asked the Village President what do you want to achieve for the Village, what is your legacy. President Sattler indicated that his desire was for an ethical and honest Board of Trustees.

Dave Allgood gave public comment remarks on the agenda item and candidates for P&Z. Mr. Allgood reminded the Village President that there are three seats to fill and that the Village President should select three people that will serve the Village. Mr. Allgood suggested that the Board take a few weeks and select three people. Mr. Allgood suggested that the Village President communicate to the Village Trustees about his recommendations and put up three people and not piece meal it or play political games.

President Sattler ended the discussion of the agenda item following the remarks of audience member Dave Allgood.

**ADJOURNMENT (Voice Vote)** Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Goings, seconded by President Sattler with all voting yes, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

KJ 12/18/2023