MINUTES

Of a Regular Meeting of the

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 3, 2024

A regular meeting of the Village Board of Piper City was brought to order at the Community Building on January 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Orr presiding. Trustees Fuoss, Houck, Cotter, Berry, and Bertrand responded to roll call.

The minutes from the regular meeting held December 6, 2023, were presented to the Board for their approval. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Cotter and seconded by Berry. On a voice vote all trustees voted aye and the motion was carried.

The financial report for December showing a balance on hand in all funds of $1,020,727.69 as of December 31, 2023, and was presented to the Board for their approval. A motion was made by Berry and seconded by Fuoss to approve the financial report. On a voice vote all trustees voted aye and the report was approved.

A list of payroll and bills were presented to the Board for their consideration. Motion by

Houck and seconded by Bertrand that the village clerk issue warrants on the village treasurer to named claimants. On a voice vote all trustees voted aye and the motion was carried. The list of payroll and bills is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof by reference.

There were no public comments.

Under old business, Mayor Orr shared with the board a list of types of trees and planting locations. A total of nine trees were planted throughout the village and park. Mayor Orr informed the board that the deadline to contest the demolition complaint filed on the house at 229 E Vine had expired and a court order to demolish the property was in process. The mayor noted that an asbestos inspection had been conducted at 229 W Market with no abatement needed. Utility companies have been contacted to remove service from the premises. A well located in the backyard will need to be capped. After discussion, the board indicated that they would like the mayor to pursue a quit claim deed on the property.

Under new business, Mayor Orr informed that an updated cross-connection survey is needed for the water department. The village will use a template provided by IRWA and it will be printed by Pro-Type Printing. Mayor Orr suggested that the board hire Bryan Zorn as the code enforcement officer to replace Janet Walker who has decided not to return in the new year. He also suggested that Zorn be paid the same telephone stipend as Walker had received. Fuoss made a motion to approve the hire of Bryan Zorn and that he receives a $65 per month phone stipend and Houck seconded the motion. On a voice vote all trustees voted aye and the motion carried.

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Mayor Orr noted that there were street name signs missing throughout the village and the double arrow sign at Maple and Walnut was dulled/damaged. The approximate price to replace the signs is $600. Berry made a motion to approve up to $1000 on sign replacement and Houck seconded. On a voice vote all trustees voted aye and the motion passed. Mayor Orr passed out copies of the annual financial report received from Russell Leigh and Associates.

Mayor Orr acknowledged the resignation of trustee Paul Mogged and the years of service he provided to the village. After discussion it was decided that the clerk place a vacancy notice on the village Facebook page and post it in the post office. Residents interested in the position should fill out an application by February 7, 2024. The personnel committee will review the applicants and submit a candidate to the full board on March 6, 2024.

Under Code Enforcement, Code Enforcement Officer Bryan Zorn shared a list of properties he has noted that have ordinance violations. Letters stating the violation and the corresponding code reference will be mailed to those residents.

Mayor Orr noted that the personnel committee had met to review vacation and paid time off policies. He stated that the policy on vacation days will be that the full-time employee will receive one week of vacation on their hire date anniversary and subsequent years will be an anniversary date of January 1. Employees will be paid unused vacation days and employees may only carry over five paid time off days, giving them a maximum of 10 days at the beginning of each year.

Mayor Orr requested that trustees fill in the committee positions that were held by Mogged. Cotter will be on the engineering firm search committee as well as the water rate study committee. Houck will be on the garbage contract review committee and the personnel committee.

Under trustee reports, Fuoss noted that some of the street signs needed to be aligned so that they are visible to the traffic they are intended to serve. Houck asked if Evely was still intending to get his water operator’s license. Mayor Orr stated that that was the plan. Cotter asked about the water standing at 412 S. Green. Mayor Orr responded that the resident had a water leak and the village had shut off the water. After the resident thought he had fixed the leak he attempted to turn on the water himself. The situation is being addressed by the mayor and the sheriff's office. Berry noted that we need to address the issue of water standing in front of Shirley Knilands house. Bertrand suggested that the board review the rental rates for the community building and asked the board’s opinion if the rates charged for non-residents should be higher than resident rates.

Motion for adjournment was made by Fuoss and seconded by Bertrand. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Rhonda McCoy, Village Clerk