

**Village Board Minutes**  
**Village of Onarga, Regular Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Monday, May 13, 2024**

1. Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Cultra called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Roll Call

Shane Cultra, Village President; Fred Walraven, Trustee; Angie Martinez, Trustee; Cole Rabe, Trustee; Holly Zirkle, Trustee; Russ Geisler, Trustee; Anthony Trumpower, Trustee; Stephanie VonDrehle, Village Clerk; Kevin Newman, Village Supervisor; Doug Brenner, Police Chief; Becky Morgan, Park Coordinator; Molly Clendenen, Village Treasurer, absent; Gilman Star, Nexus, Best's Supermarket Employees, Elizabeth Cotter, Jeff Thomas, Beth Gomez, Dave Zirkle, Nate Thomas, and Josh & Ashley Kanosky.

3. Review and approval of the Regular Village Board Meeting of Thursday April 18, 2024.

Zirkle motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 18, 2024, as presented. Geisler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Review and approval of treasurer's report

Martinez motioned to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Walraven seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. Review and approval of bills to be paid

Walraven motioned to approve the bills to be paid in the amount of \$63,360.84 as presented. Trumpower seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Appointments

Annual board President Committee Appointments- May 2024-April 2025

Committee on Finance: Chair-Shane Cultra, Committee Persons: Russ Geisler, Holly Zirkle, & Anthony Trumpower

Committee on Infrastructure: Chair-Russ Geisler, Committee Persons: Holly Zirkle & Fred Walraven

Committee on Building Standards: Chair-Cole Rabe, Committee Persons: Fred Walraven

Committee for Local & Intergovernmental Communications: Chair-Angie Martinez, Committee Persons: Cole Rabe

Committee for Parks & Recreational Activities: Chair-Holly Zirkle, Committee Persons: Angie Martinez

Committee for Safety, Security, & Enforcement: Chair-Angie Martinez, Committee Persons: Holly Zirkle & Russ Geisler

TIF Committee: Chair-Fred Walraven, Committee Persons: Holly Zirkle & Russ Geisler

Litigation Committee-Shane Cultra, Fred Walraven, & Angie Martinez

Annual Village President Appointees-May 2024-April 2025

Supervisor of Public Works: Kevin Newman

Chief of Police: Doug Brenner

Village Counsel: William J. Gerber

Village Treasurer: Molly Clendenden

Building Code Administrator: James Clarage

Building Permit Administrator: Jeff Meyer

Animal Control Officer: Doug Brenner

Park & Recreation Coordinator: Becky Morgan

FOIA Officer: Stephanie VonDrehle

Chairman, Economic Development Commission & Tourism: Shane Cultra

Martinez motioned to approve the appointments as presented. Geisler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

7. Public comment

Walraven motioned to open public comment. Rabe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Beth Gomez, Jeff Thomas, Dave Zirkle, Nate Thomas, and Elizabeth Cotter spoke on their concerns with Onarga Academy/Nexus. Kozma from Nexus listened to these concerns and stated Nexus is working on 4 actions to help remedy the issues that have been happening. Kozma stated they would be hiring a private security company to help with the students running on nights and weekends only, there was an emergency meeting with DCFS, and the leader of Best's Grocery Store incident was removed immediately from Nexus, any students under the age of 18 are banned from the stores in the Village of Onarga, and Nexus will be reimbursing both Best's and Casey's for any demolition costs.

While these steps being taken are appreciated no one felt this was enough to remedy the situations that are taking place in the Village. Gomez and Rabe both emphasized that it is only a matter of time until there is a death. This has been an issue for years but seems to be just getting worse. Jeff Thomas inquired as to why not all students that completed the demolition of these businesses were not held accountable and why the campus cannot be locked up at night. Kozma stated that she can express that these children be moved to another location, however DCFS doesn't allow this most of the time and per Illinois Law these communities cannot be locked up. Gomez and Thomas made some recommendations on the students possibly wearing uniforms, so they can be always seen and not blend with children living in the community and if fences could be put around the buildings to stop students from getting off the campus so easily. Kozma will investigate these two recommendations and see if they are possibilities. Rabe asked if a report could be given to show all incidents that happened each month to make Village People aware. Kozma will check and see if this is a possibility. The Board suggested having a public meeting in June with the Board, Grand Prairie, Nexus, possibly a Congressman or two, and townspeople to discuss all the issues, so changes can be made. Kozma stated she would get something scheduled.

#### 8. Review of correspondence to the board

There was a letter from Summer in the Park asking for donations. Zirkle motioned to approve giving Summer in the Park pool passes per day for the length of the program. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### 9. Review and Approval of Ordinances

#### 10. Standing Committee reports

##### 10.1 Parks and Recreation (Holly Zirkle, Angie Martinez, Anthony Trumpower)

Zirkle motioned to approve the hiring of 9 lifeguards at minimum wage. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Geisler motioned to approve the hiring of Dean Clendenden as Summer Help for part time mowing and painting at minimum wage. Walraven seconded the motion. The motion carried.

##### 10.2 Infrastructure (Russ Geisler, Holly Zirkle, Fred Walraven)

Geisler motioned to approve the Infrastructure Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2024, as presented. Walraven seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Walraven motioned to approve the Watseka B & D Enterprise bid in the amount of \$37,286.00 for new streetlights along Highway 54. Trumpower seconded the motion. The motion carried.

##### 10.2.1 Evergreen Street Repair

There was nothing new at this time for Evergreen Street Repair.

##### 10.3 Safety, Security, & Enforcement (Angie Martinez, Russ Geisler, Cole Rabe)

Rabe motioned to approve the Safety, Security, & Enforcement Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2024, as presented. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Geisler motioned to approve the hiring of Bill Stanley as Code Enforcer at a rate of \$27.00 per hour for 15-20 hours per week. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

##### 10.4 Finance (Russ Geisler, Holly Zirkle)

Zirkle motioned to approve the Finance Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2024, as presented. Walraven seconded the motion. The motion carried.

##### 10.5 Local and Intergovernmental Communications (Cole Rabe, Fred Walraven, Anthony Trumpower)

##### 10.6 Building Standards (Cole Rabe, Fred Walraven, Anthony Trumpower)

##### 10.7 TIF Committee (Fred Walraven, Holly Zirkle, Russ Geisler)

##### 10.8 Litigation Committee (Shane Cultra, Fred Walraven, Angie Martinez)

#### 11. Old business

#### 12. New business

13. Executive session (if needed) for any lawful purpose including but not limited to: Appointment, employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; Salary schedules for one or more employees; Selection of person to fill a public office or discipline, performance, or removal of the occupant of a public office; Purchase or lease of real property or setting of a price for sale or lease of village property; Litigation, pending or probable.

#### 14. Possible action on any executive session item

#### 15. Adjournment

Walraven motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm. Rabe seconded the motion. The motion carried.