

**VILLAGE OF BURLINGTON
P.O. BOX 205
BURLINGTON, IL 60109-0205
VILLAGE CLERK – CHRISTINE JONES
PHONE: 847-683-2283**

**(Rescheduled) Village Board Meeting
Meeting Location – Village Hall, 175 Water Street
Remote (Call In: 877-309-2073, Access Code: 145-231-853)
October 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Village President Mary Kay Wlezen, Village Clerk Christine Jones, Deputy Clerk Natalie Meisner, Village Engineer Kyle Welte, Village Treasurer Melissa Wellendorf, and Village Attorney Jim Vasselli.

Open the Meeting: President Mary Kay Wlezen opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustees: Jim Daffron, Amanda Stephens, Deb Twenhafel, and Mike Szydlo were present.

Absent: Trustees Ryan Wasson and Jean Micklevitz

Remote: Public Works Director Mark Wilkison

Guests: Ken Hale, Ben Haberthur and Jeremy Jensen.

Approval of Elected Officials remote attendance. None.

Welcome guests: Mary Kay welcomed the above-mentioned guests.

Approval of the bills to be paid as presented on Warrant-12 FY 2025, Dated October 21, 2024, in the amount of \$23,854.93. Amanda motioned to approve. Mike seconded. Ayes: Szydlo, Daffron, Stephens, Twenhafel. 4 Ayes, 2 Absent, motion carried.

Approval of September 3, 2024, Village Board Meeting Minutes. Jim motioned to approve. Deb seconded. Ayes: Szydlo, Daffron, Stephens, Twenhafel. 4 Ayes, 2 Absent, motion carried.

Approval of September 16, 2024, Village Board Meeting Minutes. Deb motioned to approve. Mike seconded. Ayes: Szydlo, Daffron, Stephens, Twenhafel. 4 Ayes, 2 Absent, motion carried.

Kane County Forest Preserve - Informal presentation by Ben Haberthur and Jeremy Jensen regarding bison in Burlington. Ben updated the Forest Preserve's project in the northern section and presented a map focusing on Engle and Lenschow Roads, the main entrance, and a smaller entrance south of the tracks.

The project evolved through discussions with the Illinois Nature Conservancy and a Native American group after *Ken Burns' American Buffalo* documentary, introducing a partnership with the Intertribal Buffalo Council to reintroduce bison. A Native American 501(c)(3) group is assisting with the process, aiming to establish a self-sustaining bison population beginning with a family of 10, expanding by 2-3 annually. To meet federal

program requirements, a second fenced area is scheduled for construction by May next year. The project preserves bison with genetic links to the original lineage nearly lost in the 1800s.

The area will include a large buffer along Engle Road with shaded outdoor areas where bison will live year-round. Visitor amenities will be minimal, possibly limited to signage recognizing Native American and cultural ties to the land, depending on partnerships by June.

Ben mentioned the local referendum that could impact future Forest Preserve funding; however, the bison project is secure due to current budgets and partner contributions regardless of the vote.

Mary Kay inquired about specific zoning requirements for a 6-foot fence and internal solar-powered electric line planned to contain the bison, confirming that the fencing will not be electrified externally. Ben reported the fence will be solar-powered.

Ben noted there have been discussions with the Kane County Department of Transportation (KDOT) regarding the increased traffic anticipated along local roads, with potential grant funding or a joint agreement to address infrastructure needs.

A Public Hearing will be held at the Village Hall on November 12th at 7:00 p.m. The Kane County Forest Preserve will seek approval for a fence variation.

Public Works/Water Plant Report. Mark presented his report, the Board had no questions. He said shoulder work on area roads begins this week.

Village Treasurer's Report. Melissa noted that the audit must be completed before the Treasurer's Report deadline on October 31st. She is awaiting a response from Lauterbach & Amen to schedule the audit. Additionally, she said the snow removal contract with Burlington Township has increased by \$3,000. Mary Kay will investigate and report to the board for further discussion at the next meeting.

Village Attorney's Report. Jim updated the board on the boundary agreement with Campton Hills. Progress is currently paused as Campton Hills' attorney is on vacation, discussions will resume upon his return.

Village Engineer/Zoning Enforcement Officer's Report. No report.

Village President's Report. *Boundary Update:* Genoa is scheduled to potentially approve the boundary agreement with Burlington on December 7, 2024. She will reach out to Sycamore regarding their boundary agreement.

SAFEbuilt Update: Mary Kay reported on a recent meeting with SAFEbuilt to review the village's fee schedule. It was noted that the village's building code is outdated and needs to be within the latest two code cycles. Although current code language may reference older standards, there is a clause stating the village should follow the most current code. This matter will be reviewed further with John upon his return.

There was a question about a permit being issued because it was noted that the date on the plans did not reflect the code year that Burlington adopted. SAFEbuilt asked that the board approve the project before issuing a permit. The board reached a consensus to issue the permit.

Mary Kay said compliance with updated codes is critical, as it could impact eligibility for FEMA funding. SAFEbuilt offered to assist in updating the codes, with a proposed fee of \$10,000. She will review their proposal attachments and bring them before the board for further consideration.

Village Clerk's Report. Christine briefly discussed the education received at the Municipal Clerk's Institute and thanked the board for approving her attendance.

Deputy Clerk's Report. No report.

Presentation and Review of Water Billing Memo. September 2024 Receipts were \$17,864.28. Security Deposits were \$600.00. Aged Receivables due at the end of September 2024 were \$4,986.74. September 2024 Water Billing was \$15,721.21.

Public Comments: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment. Deb motioned to adjourn. Amanda seconded. All Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Jones