

# Village of Creston

## Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 4, 2024 @ 7:30 P.M.  
at The Municipal Building

Prior to the meeting called to order, Former Mayor John Hall Jr. congratulated Mayor Norris and presents her with the 'Key' to the Village and wishes her the best. Jennifer Webb noted that employee Dave Hartzler made the wooden key and thanks him for his time and effort.

Mayor Brenda Norris called the Regular Council meeting to order.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Brenda Norris, Council Members: Jason Balyer, Nate Berry, Aaron Howell, Brad Olenik, Police Chief Bryon Meshew, Solicitor Kris Immel, and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb taking the meeting minutes

Others present: Barb Palmer, Joe Garrett, Beck Croft, John Hall Jr., Marsha Moniger, Cathy Cibella, Karen DeLong, Thomas DeLong, Linda Sachara, Helen Gray, Karstin Norris, Ashton Norris, Jared Norris, Barb Shilling, and Kara Shilling.

Pledge of Allegiance

Amendments to the agenda: Jennifer adds the bank reconciliation for December 2023 with an adjustment for \$55.02 due to a bank error.

Solicitor Immel swears in Brenda Norris as Mayor of Creston.

Mayor Norris swears in Council Member Bradly Olenik.

Jason Balyer made a motion to approve the December 20, 2023 special council minutes as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.

### Mayor's Report:

- a. Mayor Norris congratulates Aaron Howell as Council President
- b. There are two (2) council seat vacancies and Mayor Norris ask that letters of interest be submitted to her by January 15, 2024. Those two (2) terms end 12/31/2025.
- c. She informs that there was an organizational meeting before the start of the council meeting and reminds that the council meeting is the business meeting of the Village and all discussions should happen in the Committee meetings.
- d. The contractor will be breaking ground on the new restrooms at the park. The building should be completed by April 2024 weather permitting.

- e. There are two (2) open seats on BOPA and one (1) vacancy. There was a discussion about dissolving BOPA and appointing a Village Administrator due to no interest from the public. Mayor Norris would like to temporarily appoint Karen Gorman and David Uhler to the two (2) open seats. Jason Balyer made a motion to approve the appointment of Karen Gorman and David Uhler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.

Committee Reports:

Jason Bayler: Jason would like the Finance Committee to look into the traffic speed signs.

Nate Berry: No comment

Aaron Howell: Aaron thanks the members for his vote as Council President. He reports that Finance is still looking into beautification of the Village and bringing in new businesses.

Brad Olenik: No Comment

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb: Jennifer presents Council with the invoices/vouchers for December 2023 totaling \$215,059.14 (total for Council/BOPA) Nate Berry made a motion to approve December's invoice and vouchers totaling \$215,059.14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.

Jennifer presents council with the December 2023 bank reconciliation with an adjustment of \$55.02 due to the bank cashing a check twice in error. The error will be corrected and the funds will be deposited back into the account tomorrow. Brad Olenik made a motion to approve December's bank reconciliation with an adjustment of \$55.02, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.

Jason Flory : Jason reported that they opened and closed three (3) graves, several violations were sent out and they salted twice.

Chief Bryon Meshew: Chief presented Council with the year end report. There were fifty (50) more cases than in 2022.

Legislation: None

Old/New Business: Solicitor Immel reports that Burbank is meeting tonight and the Police Contract should be available for the Village to discuss at the February council meeting. Aaron Howell asks Jason Flory about the steps at Pike's station and if it is the Village's responsibility. Jason says it's not Village property and the Community Service Club previously offered to help, he will follow up with them. Nate asks Jennifer if she has received a response from the playground grant, she has not. Aaron Howell informs council that a member from Wayne County Economic Development will be attending the February council meeting. Mayor Norris informs that the requested street light was installed.

Public comments: Helen Gray would like the lettering from the gas company to be removed from the sidewalks. She would also like the Village to install decorative street lights and Nate informs her that they are looking into it. Helen also reported that there was a 'crazy guy' in her shop and when she went to the Police Station, she felt she should have received a better welcome from the Chief and that Officer Haven was very polite and professional when she filed the report with him.

The next meeting will be on February 5, 2024 at 7:30 P.M.

Nate Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 P.M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Balyer, approved four (4) yeas.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Jennifer Webb, Fiscal Officer