

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF MACON )  
VILLAGE OF BLUE MOUND )

REGULAR MEETING  
January 13, 2025

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Scott Younger. Roll call indicated the following Board Members present:

Trustees: Jeff Reed Jr., Jeanette Crackel, Rick Moma, Ross Carls, Terre Moma, and Phil Jacobs  
President: Scott Younger  
Employees: Chadd Peden, Chief Chad Lamb, Officer Jacob Brooks  
Attorney: Absent  
Visitors: Greg Mathias, Ron Yates, Levi & Erin Hedges, and Wayne  
Forensic Auditor: John Vander Burgh, CPA, CFE

After the meeting was called to order and attendance recorded, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Minutes** were distributed and reviewed for the Regular Meeting held on December 2, 2024. **Rick Moma made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Jeff Reed Jr. seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes.**

Minutes for the Executive Session from December 2, 2024 were distributed and reviewed. **Jeff Reed Jr. made a motion to accept the December 2nd Minutes from the Executive Session as presented. Ross Carls seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes.**

**Bills** to be paid in the amount of \$21,689 were presented to the Board members for their approval. **Phil Jacobs made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Jeff Reed Jr. seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes.**

**Treasurers Report** was presented in writing indicating balances of each account. Mackenzie Reed informed the Board that the Insurance account with a balance of \$1762.18 was closed and the balance transferred into the General Funds account. Cash deposits for the month of December totaled \$3200. There were 15 shut offs in December and reconnect fees added to their accounts in the amount of \$525. There were 499 water bills sent out due in January totaling \$25,115.52.

**Levi and Erin Hedges** asked to speak to the Board to express their displeasure with Police Chief Lamb stopping their 12 year old son on December 30<sup>th</sup> without talking to his parents and threatening to impound his pit bike. Levi also objected to being told the reason for prohibiting the son's pit bike on the village streets was for safety of the child and accused BM Police Dept in picking and choosing which laws to follow. Chief Lamb responded that the law prohibiting low speed vehicles on a city street is a state law and not a village ordinance. Levi added that there is a disconnect between the citizens of the community and the Village Board. Mackenzie said she tried to post information on the Community Facebook page only to be berated and criticized for things she has no control over. Levi also suggested the police get

involved with the youth of the community by playing basketball with them in the park, to which Chief Lamb indicated Officer Jacob Brooks has done just that. Chief Lamb added that he has approached the problem by trying to educate the children of the hazards of riding in the streets which he believes has been successful.

**Ron Yates** asked to speak to the Board to complain about snowmobiles riding on his private property, stating that three times he observed them nearly hitting his semi. Scott interjected that the private property is owned by the elevator who will not do anything to stop them. Mr. Yates also objected to Officer Brooks coming to his door and telling them it is illegal to hide someone from the police with a warrant for his arrest. The next time Officer Brooks came to their residence he requested backup.

**Attorney Andy Bourey** was not present due to a scheduling conflict so he provided a summary of the status of the following matters:

- Brad Damery appeared in court but said he had not been able to clean up the property due to weather conditions and working extra hours. The judge continued the matter until January 28, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.. Chief Lamb said we need pictures for Attorney Bourey.
- Cherie Engle appeared before the court on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> and said she had attempted a couple times to speak with someone in the office regarding the property but no one was available. Chief Lamb said the property looks better since she has stashed a lot of the stuff under her porch. There are still inoperable vehicles behind the house which continues to be an ordinance violation.

**Chastain Engineers** were not present but the water tower on the west side of town is looking good. It has been completely repainted; however, when cleaning the stand pipe down the middle of the pedestal, there were so many pin holes in it that it became necessary to replace the stand pipe, the expansion joint at the top, and insulation adding \$46,000 to the total bill.

#### **Public Works - Water/Sewer Report** – presented by Chadd Peden

- **December Projects**
  - Tower was painted, waiting on parts for the stand pipe. Said they are waiting until spring for the leg tower.
  - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> was shut off day. with 15 shut off
  - Nolan Plbg put in gas line from meter to generator and shop
  - Service leak at Levi Hedges, meter in the basement. Put in a new meter base and connection
  - Plowed on 1/5/ and 1/6, spread cinders for busses
  - 12/31 pass out nitrate flyer
  - 12/14 leak in water plant, had Burdick repair, inside plant (fixed within an hour)
  - spread cinders on 1/10 for busses
  - Preliminary bid on removing fire hydrant for coffee shop drive thru attached. (\$26,500)
  - TIF application was completed and sent to Moran on behalf of the coffee shop
- **January Projects (Tentatively)**

- Replace non-advancing meters
- Water Tower Rehab
- Clean and organize the Water plant office
- Work on shop
- Take down Christmas lights
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Working with Mark Bingham on the Sewer Plant and lift station #2
  - Looking for ways to build a water plant; it is getting bad
  - Looking into a cost analysis of a new water plant vs. tying into Stonington

Phil Jacobs provided a list of prices from Foremost for salt spreaders ranging from \$1700 to \$6500 with an additional \$600 to install.

**Building Permits: None**

**Police Report:** a written Shift Detail Report distributed showing 308 hours in December.

**Village of Blue Mound**

Patrolling:	154 hrs. + 71 in-office hrs
Complaints :	20 ea.
Ordinance Violations:	0 ea.
Training :	0 hrs.

**During the month of December**, there were 2 domestic disputes, 34 traffic stops, 1 traffic crash, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 police assist, Stationary Radar 43 entries (35 hrs), 1 preserve the peace/property exchange, 1 school event, and 71 hours on administrative duties including writing reports. Chief Lamb met with his committee and provided them a shift schedule for January.

- No training in December – training coming up Jan 13-15.
- Shift reports were distributed for the Board.
- January schedules were given to his committee
- Police Chief Comments and Community Concerns page is being created for the community website.
- 2024 Unpaid Ordinance Violations for about 15 people totaling \$2000. They are mostly unpaid traffic tickets, unlawful possession of cannabis. Board suggested a letter be sent from the BM Police office first reminding them of the fine and informing them of additional charges and attorney fees to be added if it is turned over to the attorney to pursue in court.
- Non Hwy vehicles/low speed vehicles are not allowed on the village streets by state law.

**At 7:10 Jeff Reed Jr. made a motion to close the Regular Meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss financial matters. Terre Moma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes.**

All employees and visitors left the room.

**At 8:00 Ross Carls made a motion to resume the Regular Meeting. Rick Moma seconded the motion. In a roll call vote the following Board members voted in the affirmative to resume the Regular Meeting: Jeff Reed Jr., Jeanette Crackel, Rick Moma, Ross Carls, Terre Moma, and Phil Jacobs.**

**New Business:**

- Need to advertise for a Clerk for the Board Meetings. It will be posted on Facebook.
- Quick Books will be downloaded before the next pay period.
- Old Board binders need to be taken to make room for the new ones.

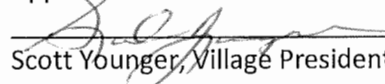
**Old Business**

- **The Employee Handbook** has been updated to accurately state that insurance does not kick in until 60 days after their hire date. Insurance coverage for employees who leave also has been clarified to state employees who leave with advance notice will be treated differently than an employee who is terminated. The handbook now states that cessation of insurance coverage will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Quote for spreader given to the Board members. Now cinders are mixed w/salt and sand. Scott mentioned that at the moment the Village needs to stop spending.
- Issue with water notifications: in the future a notice will appear on all community social media sites as well as notification by email, and handouts placed in residents doors.

**At 8:23 p.m. Ross Carls made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terre Moma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all 'Aye' votes. The meeting adjourned**

The next **Regular Board Meeting** will be Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Scott Younger, Village President

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Diana Kupish, Village Secretary