

VILLAGE OF NORTH UTICA  
North Utica, IL 61373  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees

**MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA REMOTE ACCESS**

**June 11, 2020**

[www.utica-il.gov](http://www.utica-il.gov)

**THIS MEETING CAN BE JOINED**

**FROM A COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE AS FOLLOWS:**

**WEBSITE:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/657127333>

**MEETING DIAL IN PHONE NUMBER:** **1 (571) 317-3112**

**MEETING ACCESS CODE:** **657127333#**

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**AGENDA**

- I. **7:00 p.m.** - Call to Order Village Board Meeting
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Appearance Request: Mr. Arnie Shramel; Progressive Energy Group re: Municipal Residential Electric Aggregation
  - 1.) Consideration and Possible Action on an Ordinance approving a Contract for Municipal Residential Electric Aggregation in the Village of North Utica
- V. Consent Agenda: Consideration and Possible Action for the Approval of a Consent Agenda including the following items:
  - 1.) Minutes: 05-06-2020; 05-27-2020
  - 2.) May 2020 Financial Stmt. / Summary / Revenue Reports
  - 3.) May 2020 Prepaids
  - 4.) May 2020 A/P Bills
- VI. Village Clerk
- VII. Director of Village Affairs:
  - 1.) Update on upcoming Village Events & Affairs
- VIII. Village Treasurer
- IX. Finance Liaison:
  - 1.) Consideration and Possible Action on an Ordinance for the 2020 Appropriations Budget

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- X. Police Department Liaison
- XI. Water / Sewer Liaison
- XII. Governmental Affairs Liaison:
  - 1.) General updates on Utica Business Association
- XIII. Park & Recreation Liaison
- XIV. Streets, Lights & Alleys Liaison
- XV. Building / Zoning Enforcement
- XVI. Maintenance Department
  - 1.) Updates on any ongoing / upcoming projects in the Village
- XVII. Village Engineer:
  - 1.) Updates on any ongoing / upcoming projects in the Village
- XVIII. Village Attorney
- XIX. Village President:
  - 1.) Update on the 2020 Project List
  - 2.) Consideration and Possible Action regarding the Annual Pork Fest Event
- XX. Committees / Trustees
  - 1.) Committee Assignment updates
  - 2.) Trustee Reports
- XXI. Public Comment
- XXII. Adjournment

POSTED: 06-09-2020

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MINUTES

At 7:04 pm the meeting was called to Order by Village President David Stewart who then led the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was held at the Village Hall as well as providing available remote access due to COVID-19. Village Clerk Laurie Gbur recorded meeting attendance. Present for the meeting were Trustees John Schweickert, Nate Holland, Ron Pawlak, Debbie Krizel, Mary Pawlak and Jim Schrader. Also present were Village Attorney Herb Klein, Director of Village Affairs Jamie Turczyn, Public Works Director Curt Spayer and Village Treasurer Jill Margis.

Appearance Request: Mr. Arnie Shramel; Progressive Energy Group re: Municipal Residential Electric Aggregation.

Mr. Shramel provided updated electric supply rates for the proposed Municipal Residential Aggregation. Homefield Energy is the current provider for the Village of North Utica and they had the lowest rate again this year at 0.04272, which is approx. 5% - 6% lower than Ameren. Mr. Shramel recommended a 12-month Contract for Residential Electric Aggregation. He also stated that if anyone does not want to participate in the aggregation, there will be a notice sent out to all residents prior to the beginning of the Contract that will provide information on how to opt out of the program.

Trustee Krizel asked about the cost benefit to the residents that the new aggregation Contract would provide. Mr. Shramel stated that in the past, the savings had been higher, however the proposed Contract would provide a savings to residents of approx. \$20 - \$25 annually, and although it is not a large amount, all savings is a benefit.

The Village Board agreed and it was then motioned by Trustee Schrader, seconded by Trustee M. Pawlak to approve an Ordinance authorizing the Village President to enter into a 12-month Contract with Homefield Energy for Municipal Residential Aggregation beginning in September of 2020 at a rate of 0.04272. ORD 2020-13

6 Yes

Motion Carried

Consent Agenda: It was motioned by Trustee Schrader, seconded by Trustee R. Pawlak to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1.) Minutes: 05-06-2020; 05-27-2020
- 2.) May 2020 Financial Stmtns. / Summary / Revenue Reports
- 3.) May 2020 Prepays
- 4.) May 2020 A/P Bills

6 Yes

Motion Carried

Village Clerk: NONE

Director of Village Affairs: Director Jamie Turczyn provided an update on Village Affairs as follows:  
Donation - Marquis Energy will be donating hand sanitizer to the Village on Friday, June 19, 2020. There will be a table set up and it will be available to Utica residents.

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MINUTES

DSBSP Grant Update- Applications have been reviewed for the Grant and we have been notified that Clark Run Creek has been approved for a Grant in the amount of \$25,000 and Canal Port II, Inc. has been approved for a Grant in the amount of \$10,000. We have not received any information on the application submitted by Skoog's Pub & Grill yet, however applications are still being reviewed so we should hear something soon.

Village Office- The office has not reopened yet however, we are looking at the guidelines for reopening safely and hope to have everything in place by July 1, 2020. Until then, utility payments can continue to be made at the Utica Bank drive-thru or by mailing them in or placing them in the drop box outside.

Village Treasurer: NONE

Finance Liaison: Trustee Schweickert briefly spoke about the 2020 Appropriations Budget. There were no additional comments received after the draft was provided at the May 27, 2020 meeting. Mayor Stewart stated that the budget is very similar to the 2019 Appropriations budget with very little changed. The Villages' revenue will be decreased due to Covid-19 so we aren't going to be doing any large projects this year.

It was then motioned by Trustee Schweickert, seconded by trustee M. Pawlak to approve the 2020 Appropriations Budget as presented. ORD. 2020-14

6 Yes

Motion Carried

Police Department Liaison: Chief Damron stated that the Outdoor Dining seems to be working out well and there haven't been any issues so far. There have been issues however, with the increased traffic to the State Parks since they have reopened. IDOT has signage along Rt. 80 to alert travelers and Illinois State Police have been dealing with a large increase in the traffic that is coming off of Rt. 80 and onto the ramps at the Utica exit. Visitors have been parking along Rt. 178, south of the Illinois River Bridge, which has led to pedestrian traffic along the road as well. Visitors have been sitting along the road in the ditches and having their picnics as well. There is a concern about parking along the road as well as the ability for emergency vehicles to be able to get through the area when necessary. Chief Damron and UFPD Fire Chief Ben Brown have spoken to Illinois State Police and IDOT about the situation and they are working on how to address the issues.

Water / Sewer Liaison: NONE

Governmental Affairs Liaison: Trustee Krizel stated that the Outdoor Dining seems to be doing well, but social distancing has been an issue due to the number of people standing along the sidewalks while they are waiting for their table. To help alleviate the issue, the restaurants are taking names and phone numbers and they are calling people when their table is available.

Park & Recreation Liaison: NONE

Streets, Lights & Alleys Liaison: Trustee Schrader requested that a stop sign being installed at the intersection of Canal St. and Center St. It is a 4-block stretch with no stop signs so Curt and Chief Damron will look at the area to determine whether a stop sign should be installed.

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MINUTES

Building / Zoning Enforcement: NONE

Maintenance Department: NONE

Village Engineer: Absent

Update: Church St. Grant Application - The timeline for the Grant Application to be submitted is tight and there are several projects being submitted for the Grant throughout the area so Engineer Heitz recommends that the Village wait for other opportunities to apply for a Grant for the Church St. Watermain Replacement Project.

Village Attorney: NONE

Village President:

2020 Maintenance Project List – the project list has been revised due to decreased Village revenue. The updated project list consists of many tasks and projects that are more labor intensive than costly.

Mayor Stewart also stated that he has given Engineer Heitz a few things to work on since we won't be doing any large projects.

Florence Dr. – This project still needs to be completed, and although the Village will not be able to address it further during this year, we hope to be able to take care of it next spring.

Motor Fuel Tax Road Project – Engineer Heitz will assess the Village Streets to determine the need for repairs and repaving.

Utility Relocation at Rt. 6 & Rt. 178 Intersection – Engineer Heitz will assess the necessary utility relocation to accommodate the improvements to the intersection for the future IDOT project.

I & M Canal – Engineer Heitz will review plans and estimate the cost of re-watering of the I & M Canal so that the Village can submit a plan to IDNR for consideration.

Mayor Stewart then stated that unfortunately due to Covid-19 there is not enough time to plan and prepare for the annual Pork Fest this year, so the event will be canceled for 2020. We will hold the event again in the summer of 2021.

It was motioned by Trustee M. Pawlak, seconded by Trustee R. Pawlak to cancel the 2020 Pork Fest Event.

6 Yes

Motion Carried

Covid-19:

The playground equipment will remain closed until Phase 4 of the Illinois Guidelines for re-opening which is tentatively scheduled for June 26, 2020.

Trustee Holland asked if restaurants will be able to open for inside service at that time and what the seating capacity will be. Will it be at only 50% capacity?

Attorney Klein stated he was unsure however the Governor's guidelines will specify what is mandated or recommended.

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Trustee Holland asked about the possibility of keeping Mill St. closed for the purpose of outdoor dining until October. It has been successful and will give the restaurants additional customers and revenue by being able to seat people inside and outside.

Trustee Schrader stated that the idea to have Mill St. closed permanently was in the original plans for the Mill St. Design project. There were bollards at the end of each street in the plans.

Mayor Stewart asked the Board if they had received any comments or concerns about outdoor dining and about Mill St. being temporarily closed for the previous couple of weeks.

Trustee Schweickert stated that it seemed to be going well considering the environment that we are in, and that he would like to consider keeping the street closed for seasonal outdoor dining. He also stated that he would like to hear from the businesses on Mill St. to hear their comments or concerns before making a decision to close it for the rest of the summer.

Trustee Krizel reminded everyone that while the outdoor dining seems to be doing well, the weather can also affect things. Storms or extremely hot and humid weather can affect outdoor dining as well.

Mayor Stewart stated that if the guidelines for Phase 4 only allow for inside seating at 50% capacity, it might be good to continue to offer outdoor dining and keep Mill St. closed for the summer.

Trustee Schrader stated a concern for the other businesses along the street. Trustee Schweickert agreed.

Jamie asked if the businesses will be able to continue to handle the capacity for outdoor dining along with reopening their inside seating as well.

Mayor Stewart asked the Board to provide him with any comments or concerns that they may have. He would also like to hear the comments and concerns of the businesses as well. The discussion will continue at the next meeting for further consideration of closing Mill St. for the remainder of the summer season.

Public Comment: NONE

Committee / Trustee Reports:

Trustee Schweickert has received questions about when the playground equipment will be open. Mayor Stewart stated that we will know more when we receive the Phase 4 guidelines.

Trustee Krizel thanked the Police Department for following up with property owners along Lincoln St. regarding high grass.

With no additional discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm. Motioned by Trustee M. Pawlak, seconded by Trustee Schrader.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Gbur

Village Clerk