

VILLAGE BOARD NEWS

Mayor Steve Anderson called the meeting to order on December 5, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. in the Elkhart Village Hall. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Answering present: Dave Barker, Lyle Fout, Brian Hinds, Peggy Lee, Lynnette Maske, and Nancy Moore. Clerk Ann Curry, Treasurer Edie Fairchild and Attorney Don Behle were also present.

Motion by Dave Barker, second by Nancy Moore to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2011 meeting. Roll call vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Nancy Moore, second Brian Hinds to accept the treasurer's report and authorize expenditures. Roll call vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Brian Hinds, second by Nancy Moore to approve employee reimbursements. Roll call vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

There was a concern about where the profits' from the clothes collection container that is located in the village parking lot. There isn't any information on the container. Steve will call the people and see who the proceeds go to.

Tim Gleason is going to request a variance for building on his lot.

A copy of the Snow Emergency Declaration that was passed at the November meeting will be put in the newsletter so all residents will be aware of it.

The village employees will receive \$65.00 for Christmas.

POLICE

There were 16 traffic stops and 2 burglaries to motor vehicles.

ATTORNEY

No report.

LIQUOR

Steve will be handing out the liquor license this month.

TIF REPORT

Steve had talked to Rick Kaesebier and there is a problem with the pump for the sewer at the north house in Prairie Point. The owner of the home said they have drawn up a law suit that they will file if they cannot sell their home because of the sewer bond issue.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Steve checked with Jacob's office and half of the cost of the water retention tank project can be paid with TIF funds. We will need to borrow between \$12,000.00 and \$25,000.00 to fund the extra expenses that occurred during the project.

When the tank was cleaned out there was about 3 feet of sludge in the tank. Part of the line was accidentally cut so it needed to be replaced. Valves that were installed in 1982 were replaced. There is a new aeration system that we will be looking into. It will cut the iron content by two thirds.

Some people had really bad water during the clean out process but it should be better now.

The road to the well near the coal mine is a muddy mess. This is the road that is near the new coal belt. The coal mine said they would keep the road in good condition so the village could get to the well. Steve will call Joe or Donny at the coal mine about getting the road in usable condition.

STREETS/ALLEYS

The sidewalks have been cleared on Main Street.

After Christmas we will look for new Christmas decorations. We can spend around \$300.00. Lynnette will check on getting new Christmas Signs from Performance Vinyl Graphix.

The hole in the street on north Gillette Street will be fixed. Steve will check with Hurlbut Township and see if they have any good patch mix.

There was a discussing on the swapping of the truck route again.

A resident has piled their leaves on the gutter. It is blocking the gutter and the water will dump on the road. Steve will call Brett Aukamp at the Logan County Highway Department to see what they can do about it.

BUILDINGS/VILLAGE PROPERTIES/EQUIPMENT

A door in the village hall and at the water tower will be replaced over the holidays.

VILLAGE PARKS

There were about 90 kids at the Village Hall to see Santa. It was a good turnout and the decorations looked great.

SOLID WASTE

No report.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Fry property has made some head way but the house itself still needs attention. Another letter will be sent.

2012 should be the year to clean up the village. There are other properties that need to be repaired and we will start sending out letters to the property owners. There are vehicles that are unlicensed and inoperable. We will start the process to get these vehicles cleared out.

There is a piece of railroad equipment that has been left here. It is on railroad property so there is nothing the village can do about it.

FINANCE

Dave and Nancy finished the 2012 Levy and Assessment of Taxes.

LOCAL EVENTS LIAISON

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

ORDINANCE

Motion by Lynnette Maske, second by Peggy Lee to Approve Ordinance #2011-10: An Ordinance Adopting a Schedule of Meetings for Calendar Year 2012. Those voting yea: Dave Barker, Lyle Fout, Brian Hinds, Peggy Lee, Lynnette Maske, and Nancy Moore. No nay. None absent. Ordinance passed.

Motion by Lyle Fout, second by Dave Barker to Approve Ordinance #2011-11: An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Village of Elkhart, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and Ending April 30, 2013. Those voting yea: Dave Barker, Lyle Fout, Brian Hinds, Peggy Lee, Lynnette Maske, and Nancy Moore. No nay. None absent. Ordinance passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lynnette Maske, second by Dave Barker to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Voice vote. All yeas. No nay. Motion carried.

Submitted By
Ann Curry
Village Clerk

If anyone wants to reserve the park pavilion or apply for a building permit, they are to contact Ann Curry at 737-4982.

Village of Elkhart Snow Emergency Declaration

- Will be put into effect with the prediction of four (4) or more inches of snow by the Lincoln National Weather Service.
- May be put into effect if high winds create a blowing and drifting situation.
- Will be announced on WICS Channel 20, Springfield.

Rules that will apply during Snow Emergencies:

1. All motor vehicles, trailers, etc. will be removed from Village streets and the edge of road parking areas. Vehicles, trailers, etc. not removed will be towed at owner's expense. If necessary, the Village parking lot may be used.
2. All alleys must also be cleared.
3. The Village will clean streets first, alleys second, parking areas last. Windrows left by the plows are the responsibility of the property owner. The Village will address these areas as needed, after all other plowing is done.
4. Governor Oglesby Street, between Bogardus and Latham, will be cleared, including walks. Walks at the Post Office and Library will also be cleared. All benches, flowerpots, etc. placed by the businesses must be moved. Walks not cleared for plowing will be skipped.
5. No off-road equipment, such as ATVs, four-wheelers, skid loaders, snowmobiles, lawn tractors, plows, blowers will be allowed until after the emergency is over. If you wish to clean private drives with personal equipment, you must contact the Village President for permission.
6. No snow shall be removed in any way on to or over city streets or alleys. Keep your snow on your property.
7. Insurance liability restricts the Village from removing snow on private property.

These rules are being implemented because of past problems and complaints. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

NEWSLETTER INFO

All material for the January newsletter should be turned in before

5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11th, 2012

Please email your article to jcjkkutz@frontier.com

If there is any event that needs added to the calendar,

Please call (899-5306) or e-mail the information.



Congratulations to the Mt. Pulaski High School volleyball team on your 2nd place finish in the IHSA state tournament.

ECHO Bulletin Board

Violin Lessons



Violin Lessons from an experienced teacher who has spent years playing with the Illinois Symphony and can teach Classical and Fiddle.

Lessons will be offered at Birdsong.

Call Jean Tweet @ 691-7966

Information about group lessons in Springfield is also available.

Reliable handyman services and odd jobs. Reasonable rates call (217) 828-0925

DO YOU NEED YOUR HOUSE CLEANED??? CONTACT CHRIS RATH 217-737-2516

Please save your rubber bands for Brian and Jamie Theobald at 121 N Bogardus.

We are working on a project that requires lots of rubber bands.

My number is 217-652-8300. Thanks to all.

For Rent: Elkhart, 213 1/2 N Bogardus, one bedroom upstairs, no pets.

\$330 plus utilities and deposit. Call Diana 947-2973

Horsefeathers

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Brian and Christie Hinds
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217-947-2771



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ZION LUTHERAN ELKHART CENTER

Available for business meetings, family reunions, graduation parties, birthday parties, Open gym, picnics, retirement dinners, youth groups, baseball leagues, etc.

FOR INFORMATION CALL
Kathy Wilham 792-5877 or
Jill Saulsberry 454-3347

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Why Rent Equipment? Save Time and Money.....Call Us!

If you need a little tractor work done, you have come to the right place. Whether you are looking for landscape grading, brush mowing, post hole digging or just need to move a pile of dirt, "Tractor For Hire" can do the job.

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217-737-2946

Pricing on back

CALL TODAY!



Implements

- Frontend loader
- 5' Brush mower
- 7' Grader blade
- Post hole digger (6" & 12")
- Landscape box



Mission Statement: *"Supporting our nation's armed forces by sending blank handmade greeting cards to write home on, as well as cards of gratitude to encourage them."*

Our son recently spent 6 months in Afghanistan, and many friends and family members received handmade cards from him, one day I happened to notice the stamp on the back of the card said "Operation Write Home" with the name of the person who had made the card. Curiosity got the best of me so I Googled (www.operationwritehome.org) it and decided that I wanted to be a part of this organization. For those without a computer to research it let me explain briefly what they do; blank message handmade cards are boxed and sent to our military all over the globe so they can in turn send a special card back to their families and friends - most of them do not have access to Hallmark, etc. to purchase a card so this is the next best thing! I have already made over 100 cards and have lots of time to be creative and make more, which now brings me to why I am sharing this information with you. I am in need of some new fresh designs to make the cards, what I would like to ask - if you have rubber stamps that I may borrow to create card fronts I would really appreciate it (anything from Birthday to Christmas)? And please know that I will take very good care of them and will return them after I have stamped the designs. If you have any questions, please contact me either by cell (217) 737-1448 or email at clreeley@yahoo.com. Thanks, Cherri Reeley

KidzBeat

KidzBeat after school program for kids ages K-5th grade.
Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5:15pm at the Elkhart Christian Church.
Please join us for crafts, skits, singing, snacks and lots of fun!





Come Join the Festivities at:

Elkhart Public Library

Cookie Decorating Party

Saturday December 17, 2011

From 10am-11:30am

Hope to see you there!!

"Heritage Corner" Update

Mayor Steve Anderson and members of the Lincoln/ Logan County Chamber of Commerce and Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County were on hand to help with the official ribbon cut and dedication of the new "Heritage Corner" display area (located directly across from the Village Hall) on November 14th. Take a look the articles and photos in the Lincoln Daily News: http://archives.lincolndailynews.com/2011/Nov/15/Features/picturepage111511_elk.shtml and in the Lincoln Courier: <http://www.lincolncourier.com/features/x495075387/Plaques-tout-Elkhart-Abe-link> (Great photo of Harold Pankey and Annily Eimer!)

Refreshments were served following the ceremony in the Village Hall. Hi-Tech Redneck DJ Service of Elkhart provided music and microphones for the ceremony.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Heritage Corner project. Funding and in-kind donations making the project possible were received from Phoenix Consulting Engineers, Ace Hardware, RP Lumber, Hundman Lumber, Lowe's, Village of Elkhart, Senator Bomke – Citizens for Bomke, Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County, Whitmore's Concrete, Hi-Tek Redneck DJ Service, the Logan County Board, Elkhart Small Main Street group, Growing Grounds (Bloomington), Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Elkhart Needs And Goals (NAG) group, Elkhart Historical Society, and Main Street Lincoln. Individuals helping with the project include Lucille Brewer, Suzie Brooks, Jim Carter, Travis Goodwin, Marlene Lanterman, Paul and Peggy Lee, Sally Litterly, Vern and Mona Maas, and many others.

The "Heritage Corner" display will become a place of interest for our community, historians and visitors to the Village. The Lincoln Heritage Wayside exhibits are a group of sites offering the interpretation of Lincoln and his connection to Logan County. A list and map of Lincoln Heritage signs is included in Logan County tourism literature as important locations to visit for those interested in Lincoln's legacy in Illinois.

The Elkhart signs will recount the history of Elkhart and its historical significance, places of interest in Elkhart, and information regarding the geology of Elkhart Hill. These signs will be custom-made and be placed under the roofed area when they arrive!

NAG

A big **Thank You** to everyone who donated to our Annual Bake Sale and came to see Santa. We made over \$500.00! All NAG's projects are possible from the generosity of our community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Village of Elkhart Word Search *Courtesy of Gwen Rosenfeld*

Here are the answers for last month's "Holiday Puzzle"

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. holidays | 2. Family | 3. Share | 4. Pounds | 5. Set | 6. thanksgiving day | 7. blessings |
| 8. prayer --- thanks | 9. village hall | | | 10. chapel on the hill | | 11. washington |
| 12. sled --- snow | 13. sugar | | | 14. eve --- silent night --- town | | |
| 15. jesus---bethlehem---men | 16. white---santa claus---pole---suit | | | 17. child---christmas day | | |
| 18. tree--loved ones—home | 19. wreath---eggnog | | | 20. santa---ho ho ho---gps---key | | |
| 21. mistletoe----cheer | 22. toys---clothes | 23. military | | 24. poor—pet | | |
| 25. Land | 26. merry---good night | 27. a new | 28 prosperous | | | |

Greetings to all Members and Friends,

As we once again prepare for the holidays, it is important to note how commitment can center our lives. Each family, clan, tribe or even neighborhood exhibits some form of this in annual traditions - be it caroling, decorating the house or other holiday festivity. Ours is in the creation of our annual Christmas Candlelight Service, which has continued faithfully for not quite a quarter of a century and has become a tradition for many of you. Our musicians and vocalists have become an integral part of the services, not to mention the narrators and behind the scenes writers – who devote hours to the program that for so many “begins the Christmas Season.”

During 2011 new programs have been the driving force for the Elkhart Historical Society (EHS). The dinner lectures series, which began in 2010, continues to be very well received. The final lecture of 2011 was so popular (“The Scully Family - Farming the Prairie”) that two additional nights were required to accommodate everyone. New this year was our first “Enchanted Evening,” an open air musical interlude graciously hosted by Bob and Lynne Neal at their historic home, Cro’ Hurst, on Elkhart Hill. To say it was the perfect evening, beautiful music, fabulous setting, and delicious food would not do it justice. The decision to salute our senior citizens in 2011 gave us the opportunity to recognize the many contributions they have given us throughout the years, and Margaret Lanterman was honored for her tireless years of Illinois Birding.

Other praiseworthy items to mention would be you, our friends and members, without whom our efforts would be pointless. Thank you for your encouragement, participation and support throughout the year.

The coming of the New Year brings with it the 2012 Calendar, which celebrates Edwards Trace. This exceedingly important pathway from Cahokia to Peoria (Ft Clark) has enriched the history of central Illinois for thousands of years. This year’s calendar hopes to connect the various villages and people who share Edwards Trace as a common link. Forgotten or never heard of by many, most of the trace is plowed beyond recognition or under asphalt or concrete. Only a few areas in central Illinois still show a ‘trace’ of the Trace and Elkhart Hill has two such sections of this ancient trail. Included with your EHS membership is 2012 Calendar.

If you have not shared your email address with us, please do!

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas Holiday

Peter Niehaus

Lisa Pasquesi

Gillette Ransom

Bill McClain

Steve and Kathy Thornton

Bob and Lynne Neal

ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

CALENDAR ORDER FORM

AND

Historic Afghan Order Form

_____ Name
_____ Address
_____ City _____ State _____ Zip
_____ Email
_____ Cell phone _____ Phone

MEMBERSHIP:

\$15 Senior Citizen/Family _____

\$20 Regular/Family _____

Extra contribution _____ (Thank you!)

Free calendar with your EHS membership!

I am a member, but would like _____ extra calendar(s) at \$15 each.

I am not a member, but want to order _____ calendar(s) at \$15 each.

For orders not in Elkhart, please include \$2 shipping and handling per calendar.

Calendars can be picked up at the Horsefeathers shop in Elkhart.

“Historic Sites of Elkhart” Afghan

On sale \$25.00 (was \$40)

These lovely afghans are in Elkhart’s traditional red and white colors depicting historic buildings throughout the village.

Only a few of these collector items left!

Please reserve _____ (number) afghans for me. Total = _____ (number) x \$25.00 = _____

Make your check payable to: Elkhart Historical Society

Mail this form to:

Elkhart Historical Society
PO Box 255
Elkhart, IL 62634

Thank you!

Questions? Contact Gillette Ransom, 217-947-2238.

Humane Society of Logan County

Pets of the week

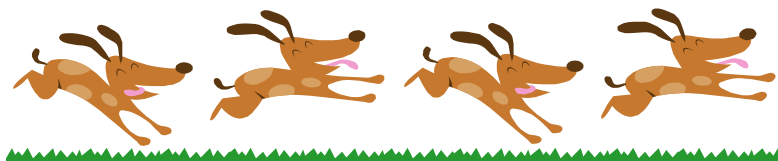


Hi! We want to talk to you again. We are Lady and Baby Girl, five year old female spaniel mixes. We are both brown, but Lady also has some white. We are very, very loving both to people and to each other. We do, however, like to bark at the other dogs. We have been together for most of our lives, and we want to be adopted together. We promise to love you and cuddle with you....cuddling is our favorite thing to do. Please come meet us at the Humane Society of Logan County shelter. Or, you can call 217-737-4042 to find out more. There are other dogs and lots of cats at the shelter. We are all spayed or neutered, micro chipped and up to date with our shots.

The lights of The Humane Society of Logan County's *Tree of Hope*, located at Ace Hardware, are once again being illuminated to represent tributes to loyal companions, loved ones and friends. The *Tree of Hope* project is designed so that everyone is able to help homeless animals, while they honor and remember loved ones, friends and pets---living and deceased. Tribute forms are in the mail and will be available at the HSLC Shelter and Ace Hardware. The *Tree of Hope* celebration is especially important this year as the HSLC SHELTER, 1801 East Lincoln Parkway, is now open to our first guests. There are lively, adorable kittens, puppies and young adult cats and dogs ready for placement in forever homes. The Shelter is open Wed 10-4, Thurs 10-4, Fri 10-5, Sat 10-2 and Sun 1-3 to anyone who wishes to visit the animals, look for a loyal companion or just enjoy the antics of our guests. You will not be disappointed.



The Humane Society of Logan County's next spay/neuter transport to Animal Protective League of Springfield will be Monday, December 12, 2011. Call 217-737-4042 now to make arrangements for your dog or cat to be spayed or neutered in December. All dogs except pit bulls and pit bull mixes are \$55. Pits are free. Male cats are \$35 to neuter, female cats are \$45 to spay, and feral cats are \$25. All animals must have proof of a rabies shot, or one must be given at the time of spay/neuter. Other services are available at a reduced cost.



Church



News

Elkhart United Methodist Church December 2011

RECYCLING Saturday December 10th – 8 'til 10 in the parking lot. The Christian Church will be there to take all your recyclables—including plastic bags.

CHURCH:

Beth Anderson, our music director, has a special program of Christmas carols and hymns planned for Sunday, the 11th. She is bringing her group of 15 flutists who will accompany us with their music. This will also be our Second Sunday fellowship after worship.

Also, that same evening at 6 o'clock we have been invited to New Holland to attend their Christmas Cantata, "Mary Did You Know". Members from some of the Parish Churches are participating in the Cantata.

The Rev. Mark Kaley will be conducting our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4 p.m. This will be a regular service rather than the usual "Come and Go" services of the past.

There is still time to sign up for the In Lieu of Poinsettias. The sheet is in the Foyer. Those who sign up will be listed on an insert in the Christmas bulletin. Donations will go to the Lincoln/Logan Food Pantry and the Bishop's project, "Imagine No More Malaria"-- which provides mosquito nets.

Bishop Gregory Palmer has expressed his desire for the Great Rivers Conference congregations to be part of a one-year Bible devotional study in 2012. Each of the five Parish Churches is encouraged to participate in this endeavor.

The next Ad Board meeting will be held on January 10th at 6 p.m. The new officers will take their places at this meeting.

UMW

Bev Albert will host the December meeting of the UMW on December 12th at 1 o'clock. Vi Cook will give the program.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Lucille Kerschner, Slip Gleason, Warren Rogers, Vincent Ehrich, Jay Schlitt, Janet Hickey, Jack Rohrer, Imo McCray, Gladys Pankey, Donald McMillan, Mary Lou Pankey

BIRTHDAYS

December 7th Cheri Gieseke; 30th Harold Pankey

Mt. Pulaski Community Unit District #23 School Board
Board of Education
Mt. Pulaski Unit Office
November 21, 2011

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit office. Roll call was taken. Present were Todd Cyrulik, Joe Olson, Kathy Boward, Diane Deppe, Mike Toohey, Jeff Beccue and Doug Martin.

Motion by Joe Olson, second by Todd Cyrulik to enter executive session to discuss evaluation, employment, compensation, retirement of personnel and student discipline.

Roll call vote All aye. No nays. Motion Carried.

The board entered executive session at 6:03 p.m.

Motion by Joe Olson, second by Mike Toohey to exit executive session. Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion Carried.

The board exited executive session at 6:54 p.m.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Todd Cyrulik to employ Bethany Dulle as the MPGS assistant volleyball coach for the 2011- 2012 term. Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion Carried.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Jeff Beccue to accept the retirement letter from Lynn Bock, MPGS math teacher, effective at the end of the 2011 -2012 school term. Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion Carried.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Mike Toohey to accept executive session minutes as reviewed in executive session. Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion Carried.

Motion by Mike Toohey, second by Joe Olson to approve consent agenda items:

a)approve October 17th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 29th and November 5th minutes and

b) approve payment of bills. Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion passes.

Reports

School board members that went to the IASB Chicago Convention, November 17 – 20, 2011 gave reports on the sessions attended.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Kathy Boward to employ Todd Hamm as the Mt. Pulaski CUD #23 Superintendent with a 3 year contract, beginning July 1, 2012, at a starting salary of \$105,000.

Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion passes.

Motion by Todd Cyrulik, second by Joe Olson to approve the replacement of the HS old gym exhaust fan with E.L Pruitt in the amount of \$8,045 and B & B Electric in the amount of \$1,180.

Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion passes.

New Business

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Mike Toohey to approve the annual test score report from the administration for 2010 – 2011. The student performance goals for the administration have been met.

Roll call vote. No nays. Motion passes.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Joe Olson to approve the 2010 - 2011 audit.

Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion passes.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Jeff Beccue to approve Baumann and Associates, Ltd for 2011 – 2012 school district audit. Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion passes.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Kathy Boward to approve the Diabetes Medical Management Policy & Plan. Formal adoption will be December 19th. Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion passes.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Mike Toohey to set the tax levy meeting date for 5:00 p.m. December 1st and the tax levy hearing date, Monday December 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Roll call vote. All aye. No nays. Motion passes.

Motion by Diane Deppe, second by Joe Olson to approve the formation of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act committee and set the first meeting date for Wednesday, November 30, 2011.
Roll call vote. No nays. Motion passes.

Items of Information

Students of the Month for the Grade School

6th Grade - Emma Schoth

7th Grade - Alexis Byrne

8th Grade - Emily Rehder

The High School Senior of the Month is Carlye Powell.

Congratulations to Mt. Pulaski High School Girls Volleyball Team and Coach Donna Dulle on their State Tournament 2nd Place Finish on November 12, 2011.

Motion to adjourn by Joe Olson, second by Kathy Boward. Voice vote. All ayes. No nays. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by

Diane Deppe

School Board Secretary