

Village of Dansville
Special Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2022

1. **Call to order:** At 6:00 P.M. in Dansville Village Hall, 1360 Mason St. Dansville, Mi 48819, by President Stolz.
Pledge Recited.
2. **Roll Call/ Presents:** Barth, Ceccanese, Kirby, Schubert, Barrett,
Non-Voting Members: Parsons, Gailey
Absent: Rockwell
Guests:
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda with adjustments made by Ceccanese 2nd by Barrett. **Carried. Unanimously.**
4. **Payment of Bills:** N/A
5. **Communications:** N/A
6. **New Business:**
 1. **Detail specific upon request of William “Fritz” Ward. Salaried, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director, William “Fritz” Ward, refusing to follow Village Council unanimously approved directive (removal of snow from sidewalks) and use of intimidation tactics to keep Village President from talking to the DPW worker, Kyle Budden, creating a potentially hostile work environment: (Kelsey, Village Clerk read “New business statement aloud”**

Stolz offered Fritz a closed-door meeting, and he denied, meeting will remain public.

Fritz asked Village Clerk, Kelsey to read his statement aloud so audience could hear. Statement read “Fritz told Stolz that he was unable to talk with Kyle, as he was a DPW staff and Fritz was the director of the DPW.. There was a lot of refusal on the snow removal and President Stolz and board member Rockwell took over this duty. Fritz commented that he knows the conversations did get heated, but those are the dates that he wrote down on his book, and those are the dates he remembered. The conversations got heated but they started out that way. If Fritz tells Kyle to do a job and someone tells him that he is doing it wrong, he has told Kyle to tell people to report to Fritz as Fritz is the one who told him to do that job. Short conclusion is that Fritz has never accepted President Stolz authority over the DPW. (A citizen commented that the authority does not come from the president, but it comes from the council.) Fritz’ position was that he would start to remove snow once the snow equipment arrived. Council member Schubert commented we did not give an exact date when snow removal would begin. There was indeed not a date set. Stolz opened it up to council discussion.

Kirby was understanding that it would all begin when the equipment was purchased and arrived. When the snow removal came to council Fritz said that the board had it all figured out and he had no comment, Barth asked him during past meetings if he had time and Fritz did answer by saying yes, he did have time.

Ceccanese mentioned she did think the Village would get sidewalks clean but that it would only be done by the new machine. It does not bother her as kids do not walk by her home, but she did think it was going to be done with the snow machine. She does not have an

issue with her sidewalk, it does not matter to me what they use, but we were told in the meeting that Fritz would work it out, whatever it would be. There are a lot of us who cannot shovel their snow.

Parsons: N/A

Gailey: I think with the removal motion, that he personally did take it as they would remove it one way or another, before the machine arrived that it would start when the motion was approved. His take from the meeting was that it was effective from that meeting. He can understand where there can be confusion, but his understanding was that it would be a time done before the new machine came in.

Barrett: Feels that when he said he would make it work that it would start after the meeting, no matter what machine it was done with, she does not understand why there is any confusion.

Barth: When we talked about this and ordered this machine that we thought snow removal would start when we received the machine. He also would like to know why the machine is just sitting there and not being delivered. We need to take a step back and look at everything, and if we keep going the way we are we will only have conflict in the Village. Fritz as far as he is concerned that he set a scheduled, and if it gets done, that is up to him. But he did think snow removal would start with the arrival of the machine.

Sharon: She feels like Gary does, and we have never had an issue like this in her 11 years council.

Stolz: My idea in the meeting was that snow removal would start after the meeting, and that him and Brad Rockwell were taking care of it. Also, the disrespect of the lack of time sheets.

Fritz ended up needing to leave the meeting; Kyle did test positive for covid -19, and Fritz has not been tested so he does need to leave. Stolz said he does have the right to leave, but the meeting can go on. Fritz has always worked hard and has respected the community. Fritz did the leave the meeting at 6:32 P.M.

Stolz did say it is not his place to remove Fritz, and that he just wants to bring to light that he needs to be held accountable. Fritz answers to council. Stolz was asking him to do something that the council wanted. He is not looking to remove him. His solution was to remove him from being the director because of the resolution, but he is still an employee. The council can bring DPW projects, but that also the previous DPW was also in the wrong. Stolz is suggesting: Due to the lack of respect Fritz has towards an elected official, Stolz's solution is to put Fritz on probation for 90 days with an evaluation after. Council can ask Brad about the machine. President Stolz would like a motion to do a 90-day probation with a reevaluation: Barrett questioned if Fritz had ever had an evaluation? Before Stolz was appointed he was supposed to but it never happened. He wants council to recognize the resolution read that The Village cannot have a DPW Director.

Motion made by Ceccanese 2nd by Barrett.

Roll call

3 no's

2 yes

President Stolz brought up that if Fritz is not doing snow removal than he needs to go back to an hourly rate. Stolz asks questions, but he gets no answers. In summarizing we need to

review what the resolution was, Council needs to move on and figure out the next step. The Village does need a job description in place for the DPW. Things do need to be further investigated.

Gailey has volunteered to go to Fritz and work with him to do a job description for both him and Kyle, and he will also collect 2-3 other evaluation processes, and bring to council to be voted on. A job description will be put into place for the DPW, and a mid-year and an end of the year evaluation will take place. This will all be in place by the next meeting. Council agreed.

7. Old Business: N/A

8. Citizens concerns:

- a. Citizen 1: The snow issue sounds like it is important, but this is the first time that council has ever said the Village will clear the sidewalks. In Mason Village owners are reasonable for their sidewalks. Before Fritz was here, you had to outsource the water license. Fritz went out and got the license. This is saving the village money by Fritz doing this. His day-to-day activities sound like, he was not doing much, but with his own observation, it includes a lot more, patching of roads, mowing, water, water tower, weed whipping. It will add up to more when we have the list.
- b. Citizen 2: I would like to express my concerns this evening on the abilities of some village council board members. I have seen for the past year now that several board members lack the confidence and/ or competence. This was truly brought out in recent events to where I need to express my concerns as a citizen of Dansville. Throughout the past year plus of attending Village meetings, I have noticed that it has been a major struggle to get the financials of the village clearly defined. Although I do see progress in this matter, due to President Stolz and Treasurer Gailey's efforts. It is still very discouraging to hear the council talk on it, as it also highlights that certain board members had no knowledge or ask to receive information, shows to me a huge disconnect and lack of competence in being able to make decisions for the Village. How can you make an educated decision or vote on matters if you do not care enough to even ask for fundamental information? This is just one example of an ongoing concern that I see with certain board members. Moving on to more recent events that highlight certain board members incompetence. Recently that board has been questioned and scrutinized on a sale of property. Yes, I say the board, because it was the board that unanimously voted yes to the sale of the property. It was not a single member or president Stolz's doing, it was the entire board as a unanimous collective that agreed. I have now seen a board member quoted in a published article stating, "our president was in favor of it, so we voted for it," which very plainly shows that certain trustees on the board lack the competency to act and think for themselves. This notion further expressed with a second quote in the same article "if I had known what I was doing, I wouldn't have done it.," this second quote from trustee Kirby exemplifies the incompetence and lack of confidence in some board members. Stating that if you knew what you were doing you would reverse your vote in this matter shows only an excuse for a matter you have begun to get questioned on and is showing your willing to hide behind your own ignorance. Furthermore, I find it very disrespectful that both members

quoted in the published article lied about making comments to the reporter in the public village meeting on Monday. It is my opinion that these actions are becoming an embarrassment not only on certain council members but on the village council. I would also like to express that this board needs to recognize that it is a board and the decisions/ votes made are a collective of the entire council not of any one individual. That is, it not acceptable for members to continue to hide behind their own ignorance and need to take accountability for their actions.

9. Board members comments:

- a. Ceccanese: She appreciates everyone's comments, but there are people on Council, because no one else runs, so they keep running until someone runs against them, the council does the best we can.

10. Motion to adjourned at 7:30 PM by Kirby 2nd by Barth. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Parsons – Village of Dansville Clerk/ DDA Clerk