

**VILLAGE OF RANDOM LAKE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE & VILLAGE BOARD JOINT HEARING/MEETING
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order: Village President Mike San Felippo called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Roll call was completed, indicating that Committee members and Village Board members; Mark Bichler, Elizabeth Manian, Barbara Ruege, Mike San Felippo, Eric Stowell, Keri Wallenkamp, and Blaine Werner were present. Additional attendees are documented on the sign-in sheet attached to these minutes.

Attorney Eric Larson read Village Ordinance 24-41 the section that deals with intent of the chapter. It discusses the requirement that there be a minimum of 900 foot buffer from any registered sex offender residence and a school, daycare, Library, Church or playground/park. The ordinance does not prohibit sex offenders from living in the village just their proximity to these protected areas.

Attorney Larson noted that Section 24-41 of the Village of Random Lake Village Code states appeals will be heard by the police and fire committee. The police and fire committee no longer exists in the Village of Random Lake. The Public Safety Committee has since been created to perform the duties of the police and fire committee, and will proceed accordingly. No objections were made to proceeding on this basis.

Attorney Larson explained the procedures for the hearing, indicating that each person for or against will have a choice to speak and only once until all have a chance to speak. The Appellant will speak first and then those in favor of the appeal waiver then those against the appeal waiver. Committee/Board members will have an opportunity to ask questions after the appellant has spoken and again after all the others have spoken.

The Public Safety Committee Chair asked Attorney Larson to administer the hearing process. At the direction of the Chair, Attorney Larson opened the public hearing at 7:39 pm.

2. Appeal Case(s)
 - a. **Call Case #2021-02**

Request of Robert Ehr for an exemption to the Residence restrictions that would allow him to reside at 101 MEADOW LAKES DRIVE:

Attorney Andrew Arena spoke on behalf of Robert (Bob) Ehr explaining that Mr. Ehr has accepted full responsibility & spared the victim a trial. Mr. Ehr spent time in jail and completed community service. Attorney Arena spoke about Bob's current health issues which include speech and mobility issues as a result of a stroke, and how that

played a part in the Ehrs moving into the village. They lived in the Town of Sherman for many years before moving into the village in April of 2021. Mr. Ehr's offense occurred in 1990 and never had another offense or citation against him, and Mr. Ehr is no longer on probation for his offense. Attorney Arena also indicated Mr. Ehr has a psychologist on call, and the psychologist sees Mr. Ehr as no risk to commit another offense.

Attorney Arena discussed the distance from Burr Oak Park to the Ehr's residence, as well as the visibility of the park from the home. Indicating that from the windows of the home you cannot see the park. The home has been measured as 694.3 feet from the boundary of the park. The closest portion of the park is the flood water retention pond.

Questions from the Committee/Board: There were none.

Spoke in favor of Appellant: Annette Ehr of 101 Meadow Lakes Drive, Random Lake, WI; Wife: spoke in favor of Bob Ehr, indicating that they have been married for 20 years and joined their families together and never felt that Bob was a threat to her daughter. Mrs. Ehr indicated she is with Mr. Ehr roughly 85% of the day because of his health issues. In addition, Bob had 50% custody of his kids from his previous marriage after his offense. He has been involved in raising all 4 of his kids. Mrs. Ehr also indicated that her daughter submitted a letter of recommendation on behalf of Bob. Mrs. Ehr asked if there were any questions from the Committee/Board for her, after hearing none Mrs. Ehr sat down.

Max Ehr; Son: Conveyed that his dad deserves to stay in his house and that he's not a threat.

Spoke in objection of Appellant: Staci Schluethermann of 243 Christine's Way, Random Lake, WI: Commented that she does not take a position for or against the waiver, except she did not want the Committee or Board to accept ignorance of the law as an excuse.

Attorney Larson called for any other objectors to speak, after hearing none at the direction of the chair he closed the hearing at 8:15 pm.

Public Safety Chairman Stowell read through the factors outlined in the Village of Random Lake Village Code Section 24-41 to consider before rendering a recommendation. Those factors include the following: circumstances surrounding the offense; relationship of the appellant and victim; presence or use of force; presence of enticement; need to protect the victim or similarly situated individuals; current dangerousness of the appellant; proximity in time from the original offense; any criminal offense, ordinance or rule violations committed since the original offense, including failure to register or comply with restrictions set by a bond, parole or probation; time out of incarceration; current supervision status of the by the Department of Correction; counseling and treatment history; credibility of the appellant; remorse; proximity of proposed residence to a child safety zone; support network of appellant

near proposed residence; alternative housing options. The Public Safety Committee considered all of the above factors before rendering their decision. The Committee did not find any cause for concern from any of the factors listed above. The Public Safety Committee does not believe Mr. Ehr presents the risks that Section 24-41 of the Village of Random Lake Village Code is designed to protect against.

Member Manian made a motion to recommend to the Village Board a waiver of the ordinance. Member Bichler seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

The Village Board was now enacted to discuss and render a decision.

Trustee Bichler made a motion to accept the Public Safety recommendation and to grant the waiver to Robert Ehr to reside at 101 Meadow Lakes Drive. Trustee Wallenkamp seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Bichler; aye Trustee Manian; aye Trustee Ruege; aye President San Felippo; aye Trustee Stowell; aye Trustee Wallenkamp; aye Trustee Werner; aye. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

President San Felippo adjourned the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Lesser, CMC, WCMC
Clerk/Treasurer