

Regular Meeting December 2, 2010

The Village Board of Trustees met at 7:00 P.M., local time, in the Village Board Room, to hold their regular monthly meeting. Officers and Trustees present were President Bouse, Clerk Duden, and Trustees Ehler, Hethke, Jones, Parkerson, and Severins. President Bouse led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests included Brody Crozier, Brian Baxter, Carrie Mulvaney, Robert Ward (Rantoul Press), and Patrick Ready and Dave Atchley from MSA/HDC Engineering Services. Crozier was present to discuss an incident that occurred in front of St Paul's church on November 15th, after he and his family had been to a Girl Scout meeting, where the lady that lived in the small house across the street came out and threatened them with a gun, shooting into the air, for parking in front of her house. Crozier was concerned that the Gifford Police did not arrive until after the County Sheriff and the Thomasboro Police had arrived, and he could not understand why. President Bouse explained that the police budget had the part time hours cut in half in order to have more funding in the drainage fund, therefore there was not a Gifford officer on duty that evening. Discussion followed regarding loss of police protection, part time officers and their hours, and what hours Chief Weary works. It was suggested that we place profiles of the part time officers on the Village website to familiarize residents with the police force. Trustee Hethke suggested the Village designate an area of private parking for the residents across from the church.

Atchley and Ready were representing MSA/HDC Engineering Services. They were hoping to replace Gary Maxwell as the Village engineers. Discussion followed.

As each Trustee and Officer had been given printed copies of the minutes from the last meeting, Trustee Ehler made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Jones. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). Trustee Parkerson made a motion to accept the minutes as read. It was seconded by Trustee Hethke. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no).

As each Trustee and Officer had been given printed copies of the bills to be considered for payment, Trustee Severins made a motion to dispense with the reading of the bills. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). Trustee Ehler said there will be about another \$1,000 added to the drainage project east of town to cover the crop damage related to the project. Trustee Hethke made a motion

to pay the bills. It was seconded by Trustee Parkerson. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no).

As each Trustee and Officer had been given printed copies of the Treasurer's Report, Trustee Ehler made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's Report, except for the summary. It was seconded by Trustee Parkerson. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). The balance in Village accounts as of October 31, 2010 was \$497,655.00. Total money received for the month of November 2010 was \$45,706.27, plus \$31.34 interest from CD #8170 and \$68.86 interest from CD #15399. Total expenses for the month were \$29,256.42, leaving a balance on November 30, 2010 of \$514,205.05.

The Police Report was read by President Bouse. In Traffic Matters, there were 22 incidents, 17 verbals, and five citations. In Investigative Matters, there were 16 incidents, four reports, and one arrest.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT

Trustee Jones reported activity for the month of November 2010.

Total gallons of water pumped-----1,929,000

Average daily consumption-----64,300

Jess Childress's report further stated that he dug trenches in sand filter #2 and converted siphon room over to winter operation at the wastewater treatment plant; dug down to the water main to repair a leak leading to 615 S. Park St.; took big truck to Corky's for inspection and oil change; filled truck with sand and put on the snow plow; was called out on the 11th for pump #2 seal failure due to blockage in the impellers at the wastewater treatment plant; was called out on the 18th for the same thing at pump #1; purchased a new drill press and started working on the new meters; helped cut down the Christmas tree for downtown and put lights on it; read all water meters and remotes; backwashed all pressure filters at the water plant; collected all water and wastewater samples and sent them to the EPA lab and PDC lab; logged wastewater test results with EPA lab online and sent them to Springfield; logged all water bill receipts and made all deposits; sent out 14 letters for non-payment of water and sewer bills; had to discontinue one service due to non-payment. Childress also said the Village is in need of some new Christmas lights for the light poles along Main Street. He said we may need to look for some after the holidays in order to get a bargain.

SANITARY AND STORM REPORT

Trustee Ehlers suggested Childress look into purchasing a transit and that perhaps we should get that in the budget for next year.

POWER LIGHTS AND TELEPHONE REPORT

Trustee Severins has a light out in the North Pointe Subdivision, again. He said it goes out frequently. After discussion it was decided to ask those residents near the light to see if they need that light, since they all have lights at each residence's driveway.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

President Bouse said Trustee Gehrt was planning on having the Christmas decorating contest judging somewhere between December 16-24 between 6:00 and 8:00 P.M.

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

Trustee Hehtke said he will talk to Jackie Harris to see if she can contact the Emord family about trimming the hedge on the north side of their property.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer Duitsman said the new computer is installed and things are going well after working a few bugs out. He said Sean Weary is interested in the old computer if the Board didn't object. Duitsman said he checked with Mediacom about the internet service hooking up with his computer at home. They said they can offer that service for \$59.99 a month, and it will tie his computer with the computer at the Village Hall. He said it is about \$1,000 for the HP software to hook up with the new system. A motion to spend \$1,000 to get Treasurer Duitsman a new computer hardware and software, along with the \$59.99 Mediacom monthly service, was made by Trustee Parkerson. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no).

NEW BUSINESS

President Bouse said he had been approached by the Harwood/Kerr Township Drainage district, wanting money from the Village for the use of draining into their township. We currently pay Spoon River Drainage \$2,500 a year for that purpose, but don't know how much Harwood/Kerr will be asking. Discussion followed.

President Bouse said we had received a franchise agreement from Mediacom. They had it drawn up in ordinance form but did not specify the duration of the agreement. Duitsman said we currently receive \$3,200 a year for their franchise. Discussion followed. Bouse said he would investigate the length of the contract, make sure it isn't

exclusive to Mediacom, and make sure we will still receive the yearly fee.

Trustee Parkerson moved the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a voice vote. The meeting was properly adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Village Clerk

Approved by me this 6th day of January 2011.

President of the Board