

Regular Meeting May 5, 2011

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 Ackerman, Clerk Duden, and Trustees Cler, Crozier, Ehler, Hethke, Jones, and Severins. President Ackerman led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests included Nancy Cogil, Carrie Mulvaney, Andrew Helregel (Rantoul Press), and Jeb Willard. Mulvaney asked about updates on the Village website to include new Board members and Village ordinances. Childress and Trustee Jones said they are working on the updates.

As each Trustee and Officer had been given printed copies of the minutes from the last meeting, Trustee Severins made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no). Trustee Ehler made a motion to accept the minutes as read. It was seconded by Trustee Crozier. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no).

As each Trustee and Officer had been given printed copies of the bills to be considered for payment, Trustee Cler made a motion to dispense with the reading of the bills. It was seconded by Trustee Hethke. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no). Trustee Severins made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no).

As each Trustee and Officer had been given printed copies of the Treasurer's Report, Trustee Cler made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's Report, except for the summary. It was seconded by Trustee Hethke. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no). The balance in Village accounts as of March 31, 2011 was \$476,260.45. Total money received for the month of April 2011 was \$49,057.90, plus \$20.93 interest from CD #8170 and \$38.92 interest from CD #15399. Total expenses for the month were \$58,308.54, leaving a balance on April 30, 2011 of \$467,069.66.

The Police Report was read by Chief Weary. In Traffic Matters there were 28 incidents, 21 warnings, and five citations. In Investigative Matters there were 12 incidents, two reports, and one arrest. Weary also said he had been approached by a resident on Plumb Street regarding a dead ash tree that is on their property but very near the road. It was determined that the tree was located so the Village would be responsible for its maintenance. Weary had contacted Brad Johnson and was given an estimate of \$500 to remove the tree down to the stump. After discussion, Trustee Hethke made a motion to pay Brad Johnson \$500 to remove the tree. It was seconded by Trustee Cler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no). Weary said he would contact Johnson to set up the removal.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT

Trustee Jones reported activity for the month of April 2011.

Total gallons of water pumped-----1,845,000

Average daily consumption (gal) -----61,500

Childress's report further stated he raised pump #1 and #2 on the 4th to clean debris from around the impellers at the wastewater plant; drilled out five water meter lids and put five more new meters in the water system; mowed at the office, water plant, corner by Spreader, and wastewater plant; had new pump installed at well #5 at the water plant; jetted tile on Willard Street and by the church on Park Street; had the wastewater plant inspected on the 14th by the Illinois EPA inspector; replaced several sections of pipe in siphon room at the wastewater plant; read all water meters and remotes; backwashed all pressure filters at the water plant; raised both sewage pumps at the wastewater plant on the 20th and 25th due to debris in the impellers; logged all water bill receipts and made all deposits; sent out six letters for non-payment of water and sewer bills; converted wastewater treatment plant back to summer operation and raked out #2 sand filter. Childress said Dave Atchley suggested we talk to Country Health and recommend they install a septic tank prior to the catch basin to trap the debris that appears to be causing issues with the impellers. After discussion, it was decided to have Childress try to isolate the issue to determine whether Country Health is actually causing the problem or if it could also be coming from Village residents. He said the cost of a septic tank could be from \$1500-\$2000.

SANITARY AND STORM REPORT

Trustee Ehler said the Board needs to start the process of holding public hearings regarding the work along Main Street and how to progress with the parking in the business area. If we are going to go with Federal funding, we will have to change the current diagonal parking to parallel parking. After discussion, it was decided to get the estimated costs of the total drainage project, which the Village would be responsible for 20%, and may still be more than the Village could afford to pay.

POWER LIGHTS AND TELEPHONE REPORT

Trustee Severins said the light on Park Street near Randy Rademacher's has been repaired. He also said Gary Jones said the light pole in his yard is rotting and needs to be replaced.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Trustee Crozier asked for permission to purchase some new Christmas lights for along Main Street, while they are still on sale. He also asked about purchasing flags to hang on the poles along Main Street. After discussion, Trustee Ehler made a motion for Trustee Crozier to spend up to \$1,500 for flags and Christmas lights, pending budget approval. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no). Crozier said Matt Dewey is no longer interested in updating the Village website. Jeb Willard, who works with computers at the University of Illinois, offered his assistance at a nominal fee, saying he would contact Dewey to see how he had set it up originally. He said he may have to change a few things over and redo the site, along with any updates at

an estimated cost of \$500-\$1000. He said he may have to switch over the domain name, which could cost about \$100 or less. He would charge about \$25 an hour for maintenance. Trustee Crozier made a motion to allow Willard to spend up to \$100 to switch over the domain name on the website. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no).

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

Trustee Hethke said he will be meeting with John Stalter to discuss sidewalk construction. Trustee Cler said Atchley told him there was no money left in the 'Safe Walk to School' program, but we could apply for grant money early next year. There was discussion regarding tree stumps that had been placed at the end of the alley across from the grade school. Childress said he would remove them since they are on the Village right of way.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer Duitsman presented the revised budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. He recommended a 3% raise for all employees, since no raises were given last year. There was discussion regarding compensation for Childress since he has had to plow snow at all hours of the day and night and he also gets called out during the night to attend to issues with the water and wastewater plants. There also was discussion regarding individual employee evaluations on a regular basis, once or twice a year. Duitsman suggested a special meeting in March each year to discuss salaries, bonuses, etc., since raises go into effect the first of April. That would save Duitsman from having to go back to prorate salaries. We would still have the budget meeting in April. There was discussion regarding the school crossing guard. Michael Schluter is the President of the school Board, and he was not aware that the Village paid for the crossing guard. He said he would talk to the other Board members and make a decision as to whether or not the school would start to pay for that, leaving more money in the budget for Chief Weary to police on the evenings of school events. A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Trustee Cler. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no).

President Ackerman brought up the subject of allowing golf carts on Village streets. After discussion, Trustee Ehler made a motion to only allow those on the celebration committee drive golf carts, and only during the Gifford celebration. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no).

Childress said he had been contacted by Esther Viles from Mediacom regarding a franchise agreement. After discussion the Board decided not to sign any franchise agreement with Mediacom.

Trustee Jones asked if anything was going to be done with the trailer just south of Casey's on the east side of Main Street. Discussion followed regarding its proposed removal. Weary said he would talk to Mark Osborn. It was suggested we also talk to Bill

Taylor, who live in the house directly south of Casey's on Main Street regarding junk in his yard. Trustee Jones said dump day would be sometime in June and that Trustee Crozier would need to start contracting for that. Jones said she has notes on last year's dump day to assist with that process. Mulvaney said Mary Sutherlin's kids in her clean up crew may be able to help that day, too.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Hethke asked if there was a speed limit in the alley. Weary said he would check state statutes and have signs installed. Childress also said the 20 MPH sign going south on Main Street just before the business district is missing and needs to be replaced.

Treasurer Duitsman said he would give the approved budget to our attorney to put into ordinance form. There was discussion regarding retaining Brian Schurter as our attorney. It was decided to retain Schurter for another year.

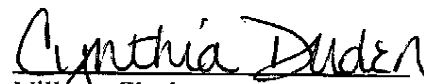
President Ackerman read the completed census figures for the Village from Jesse White, Secretary of State. The current census for Gifford is 975.

President Ackerman said there was an interested party in purchasing the Main Street Café, but they were requesting a liquor license, and since Colonial Pantry is no longer operating, we have an extra license. After discussion, the Board decided to allow the liquor license transfer.

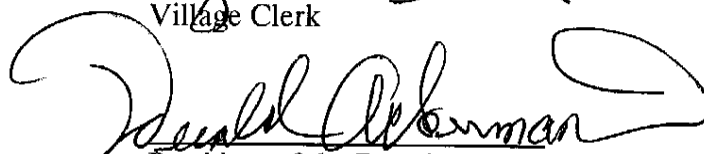
Treasurer Duitsman asked if the Board wanted to adjust the tax levy or leave it where it is. After discussion, it was decided to try to stay where we are at this time.

Trustee Ehler suggested the Board have some ideas for a personnel committee by the next regular meeting.

Trustee Severins moved the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a voice vote. The meeting was properly adjourned at 8:41 P.M.


Village Clerk

Approved by me this 2nd day of June 2011.


President of the Board