

Regular Meeting April 3, 2014

The Village Board of Trustees met at 7:00 P.M., local time, at the Gifford State Bank Board Room, to hold their regular monthly meeting. Officers and Trustees present were President Ackerman, Clerk Duden, and Trustees Cler, Ehler, Jones, Severins, and Youmans.

Guests included Donna Goldenstein, Dave Atchley and Greg Crow from MSA, Andy Keiser from Fehr-Graham, Eric Rademacher, Rick Heimbürger, Joe Daugherty, Jim Cleary, Jan McDaniel, Ryan Latvaitis from the Rantoul Press, Susan Chavarria from CCRPC, and Steve Griswold. Goldenstein presented her Gifford Tornado Plan with future references and risk assessments. Discussion followed. The Board thanked her for her time devoted to organizing this plan.

Chavarria presented the Board with grant opportunities available. There is an \$81,000 grant from Americare that she sent in yesterday. She said there also is a grant available from Rural Partners for a maximum of \$15,000 that we can apply for. Trustee Ehler suggested ideas for that to replace the warning siren that had been at the old fire station or street signs. Discussion followed. Chavarria also said there is grant money available from the USDA Rural Business Enterprise for \$10,000-\$500,000 to use for benefit of business, but the Village must own the property, such as sidewalks. She said the applications are due by May 1st with the pre-applications due next week. After discussion, it was decided to get a really good application filled out for next year instead of rushing an application for this year.

Heimbürger asked about the drainage problem on Florida Ct. He said his basement floods as much as two weeks after a rain and it comes up through his sump pump, so he has had to plug it up. There was discussion regarding drainage repairs in the last few years in that area, sump pumps, and footing tiles. It was decided to have Kalin Kocher help dig in the area to locate the issue.

McDaniel asked about the wood pile on S New Street. She wanted to know when the Village planned to burn the pile, and would they please inform the area residents before that time. She asked about fire protection during the burn and how they planned to monitor the wind changes and smoldering. She also wanted to know who would be liable if there were any issues. Childress said he was going to be placing a fence around that area to prevent further dumping.

Rademacher said the Zoning Committee had met to consider several variance requests. The first one, which had been approved by the Zoning Committee, was for the grain elevator, wanting to construct more than the 35' allowance to reconstruct their elevator and bins. Trustee Cler made a motion to approve the grain elevator's request to construct over the 35' allowance. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). The second request was for Chad Hoover who wanted to have a 3'6" set back as opposed to a 5' set back. He had verbal approval from his neighbors. After discussion, the Board decided to have Hoover request neighbor approval in writing.

There was a third request from Dave Bletscher to reconstruct his new home on his long, narrow lot, where there is 35' set back from Park Street. After discussion, Trustee Ehler decided to talk to Bletscher to get a clear idea of his plans before approval is made.

President Ackerman said he had been in conversation with Ray and Barb Busboom in regards to the purchase of acreage by the water treatment plant in order to construct the new water tower and maintenance building/Village Hall. They have agreed to sell property on the north and west sides of the current water treatment plant for \$30,000. The Busboom's will pay the survey fess and the Village will take care of the legal fees. Trustee Cler made a motion to accept Ordinance #324 to purchase property from Ray and Barb Busboom for \$30,000 for construction of the new water tower and buildings. It was seconded by Trustee Youmans. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). After discussion, it was decided to talk to Bill Scott to see if he will handle the sale as opposed to having Brian Schurter, since Schurter is the son to the attorney for the Busboom's and that could be construed as a conflict of interest.

Crow presented an updated proposal for temporary repairs to the water tower. He said it would take about 8 weeks at a cost of \$81,763, which would hopefully be paid with grant money from Americare. Trustee Ehler made a motion to accept the bid from Caldwell, not to exceed \$81,763, pending receiving the \$81,000 grant money from Americare. It was seconded by Trustee Jones. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). Crow also presented a project update on the new water tower. There was discussion regarding tower placement and dates for construction and completion. Trustee Ehler made a motion to approve the project update on the new water tower. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no).

As each Trustee and Officer had been given printed copies of the minutes from the last regular meeting and a special meeting, Trustee Severins made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Youmans. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). Trustee Youmans made a motion to accept the minutes as read. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. 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 Youmans 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 Cler made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Trustee Jones. 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 Cler made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's Report, except for the summary. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). The balance in Village accounts as of February 28, 2014 was \$639,483.34. Total money received for the month of March 2014 was \$51,618.43, plus \$9.50 from CD #8170 and \$13.89 from CD #15399. Total expenses for the month were \$75,844.87, leaving a balance on March 31, 2014 of \$615,280.29. The balance in the

Disaster Recovery Fund as of February 28, 2014 was \$907,257.93. Total money received for the month of March was \$4,260.18. Total expenses for the month were \$22,337.75, leaving a balance on March 31, 2014 of \$886,180.36.

The Police Report was given by Chief Weary. In Investigative Matters, there were 12 incidents. In Traffic Matters there were 31 incidents, 21 warnings, two citations, and two arrests. Weary said a resident had called him and asked about burning in the Village limits. Discussion followed. He also had a resident ask how the Village could get information out to the residents that do not use the internet, and had suggested using the marquis in front of the community building. Weary also presented a revised Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement. Discussion followed. Trustee Ehler made a motion to accept Resolution #222 to accept the revised agreement. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). Trustee Ehler asked how Chris Duitsman was progressing in acquiring his police credentials. Weary said he was currently working on it but it was a slow process.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT

Childress did not present a report, but asked how to deal with all of the trash that had recently been cleaned up and left along the roadsides for pick up. Trustee Ehler told him to leave it there at this time, and Aaron Fenter will eventually pick it up to haul to a central location for disposal.

STREETS AND ALLEYS REPORT

Trustee Cler said the Governor's Relief Package has to be submitted by April 20. Before that time we need to get a cost estimate for the streets, sidewalks, signs, alleys, etc. There was discussion regarding the replacement of stop signs before someone has an accident.

SANITARY AND STORM REPORT

Trustee Ehler said he met with Kalin Kocher regarding the tile project on Park Street behind the Baxter and Frandle residences. He said we may need to sod or seed that area. They also will work on the Florida Court project. He talked to Jared Owens from IEMA regarding the Governor's plan and application process, but had no new information at this time.

POWER LIGHTS AND TELEPHONE REPORT

Trustee Severins said there is no new pole at the Billings residence, yet. He said he also want to ask the power company why our power goes out so easily here in town.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Trustee Youmans said Dave Bletscher told him that he talked to Clear Talk siren systems regarding their labor contract proposal. He said it would cost \$300 a year for each siren, which at this time, we have two. After discussion, it was decided to wait until we could talk to Bletscher and get more information.

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

President Ackerman said Neil Baker told him they would have the concrete poured at the park so we can complete the park work and get the remaining grant monies.

OLD BUSINESS

President Ackerman presented Ordinance #323 for a hard liquor license for Casey's General Store #1669. Trustee Cler made a motion to accept Ordinance #323 giving Casey's General Store #1669 a license to sell hard liquor. It was seconded by Trustee Youmans. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no).

President Ackerman said the employee handbook needs to clarify how to handle unused vacation time for full time employees. After discussion, it was decided to give them pay for their unused time. Trustee Ehler made a motion to clarify in the employee handbook that full time employees will get paid for any unused vacation time. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no).

President Ackerman said Chief Weary had talked to the owners of the homes damaged by the tornado that have exposed basements and crawlspaces and they plan to cover and protect them until they are either sold or rebuilt. After discussion, it was decided to have our attorney send a notice to the property owners with a specific date for them to have the property covered or fenced.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Duitsman said he would have paychecks for the Trustees once he gets the attendance sheet for the past year. He also said the Budget meeting will be April 24th at 7:00 at the Bank. He presented a budget comparison for everyone to peruse.

Trustee Cler moved the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a voice vote. The meeting was properly adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Village Clerk

Approved by me this 1st day of May 2014.

President of the Board