

## Regular Meeting May 1, 2014

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

Guests were Philip Kisubiks (Rantoul Press), Joan Dixon (Community Foundation of East Central Illinois), Steve Griswold, Andy Keiser, and Greg Crow. Joan Dixon presented the Village with a check for \$50,000 from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois. At a previous meeting they had presented a check for \$16,650 to assist local businesses in their recovery since the tornado. Now they have a check for \$50,000 representing \$25,000 in donations from over 120 individuals and organizations from school children, Champaign County drug court, open road paving, and a matching fund donation from the Marijen Stevik Foundation. They, along with the Champaign Rotary club have assisted with planting trees in Gifford, also. Dixon wanted the Board to know they not only were supporting monetarily, but also with their hearts and spirits.

Andy Keiser reported an update on the water plant construction, stating they should be starting within the next two weeks.

Greg Crow had an update on the existing water tower. He said they should be starting repair work the first or second week of May. He said we need to have a geotechnical survey performed before digging the new water tower. He had received a proposal from MET for \$3,060 to do that survey. After discussion, Trustee Ehler made a motion to approve \$3,060 to MET for the geotechnical survey. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). Crow said MSA had submitted a letter to IDOT, on behalf of the Village, requesting funding assistance for costs associated with ditch and street repair, sidewalk removal and replacement, culvert replacement, utility trench repair, street sign replacements, tree removal and trimming and stump grinding. The initial request was for just over \$300,000. IDOT contacted MSA and the Village notifying us that there are additional funds available and for us to adjust our initial bids, if needed. Also, they requested we include costs for the design engineering and construction engineering. The updated request totals \$367,163. We are waiting to receive confirmation from IDOT along with project specifics. MSA also received word from IHDA that the Village was unsuccessful with the Abandoned Property Grant request in the amount of \$75,000, as the Village didn't score high enough to obtain funding for two reasons: 1) they did not meet the original intent of the program assisting communities with high foreclosure rates and 2) lack of prior funding experience. IHDA did indicate that another program to provide funding for demolitions will be released this summer. They will be sending an application to the Village and anticipates the Village being on the short list for funding consideration.

Eric Rademacher said the Zoning Board had met on April 30 to review several variance requests. Ken Curtis had a request to rebuild his tornado ravaged garage 16" off his property line, which is where it had been prior to the tornado. That request had received Board approval, as long as the overhang did not extend over the property line. Trustee

Severins made a motion to approve the variance request by Ken Curtis to rebuild 16" off his property line. It was seconded by Trustee Baxter. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). Rademacher said he also had a request from Dave Bletscher to have a 5' setback, facing Park Street. He said the Zoning Board preferred a 10' setback. After discussion, Trustee Cler made a motion to approve the easement with a 10' setback. 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, Trustee Cler made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Baxter. 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 special meeting, Trustee Ehler made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). Trustee Baxter made a motion to accept the minutes of both meetings as read. It was seconded by Trustee Cler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no).

As each Trustee and Office had been given printed copies of the bills to be considered for payment, Trustee Baxter made a motion to dispense with the reading of the bills. It was seconded by Trustee Jones. 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 Baxter. 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 Baxter. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no). The balance in Village accounts as of March 31, 2014 was \$615,280.29. Total money received for the month of April was \$53,111.21 plus \$10.52 interest from CD 38170 and \$8.66 interest from CD #15399. Total expenses for the month were \$53,034.14, leaving a balance on April 30, 2014 of \$615,376.54. The balance in the Disaster Recovery Fund as of March 31, 2014 was \$886,180.36. Total money received for the month of April was \$89,961.13. Total expenses for the month were \$160,912.88, leaving a balance on April 31, 2014 of \$815,228.61.

The Police Report was given by Chief Weary. In Traffic Matters, there were 26 incidents, 22 warnings, and two citations. In Investigative Matters, there were 11 incidents and two reports. Weary further stated that there were three properties on West Plumb Street that still needed to be cleaned up after the tornado. Two of the properties are owned by the bank and they are in negotiations with the insurance company. The third property is planning on making repairs soon. In regard to the concrete pile on West Street, Weary said it will be used as filler at a future date. He said he wasn't sure what the plans were for the Barnett property on Park Street at North Street, but Paul Buenting was trying to finish cleaning up his property on West Street, which he has sold.

## **SANITARY AND STORM REPORT**

Trustee Ehler said Kalin Kocher has future plans to work on the Florida Court drainage and clean up the ditch between the Frandle and Baxter properties just south of Casey's. Childress has put up a fence along the east side of Ernray Drive to keep debris from blowing in the field.

### **POWER LIGHTS AND TELEPHONE REPORT**

Trustee Severins said he has not heard back from Dave Dowling in regards to his query about the power flickering.

### **FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Trustee Baxter said he planned to work at the park on Saturday, weather permitting, to install the bags games and work on the ball diamond. He asked who to contact to replace the military signs on the light poles along Main Street that blew away in the tornado. Discussion followed. He said he would contact Border Magic to have them replace those missing names. The Village will pay for any military that live in the Village. Any others in the Gifford zip code can be placed on a pole, at the expense of the family.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

President Ackerman said Chief Weary requested that \$1,750 be added to the special police budget for the f/y '15 budget to cover expenses for the Gifford celebration. Treasurer Duitsman said he could add that to the budget with no problem. There was discussion regarding the celebration and fireworks. Duitsman also said the Village received a donation from Central Illinois Municipal Officers Association (CIMO) in the amount of \$3,250. He said it had been deposited into the disaster relief fund. Duitsman presented the budget for f/y '15. Trustee Cler made a motion to accept the budget as presented for f/y '15. It was seconded by Trustee Ehler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (5 yes, 0 no).

President Ackerman said the Village had paid Ace Holding \$7,090 last year for their backhoe work. There was discussion regarding charging for hook ups for any new water and sewer lines. It was decided to charge \$150 for water and \$300 for sewer if we have to tap into a main or move any lines. Childress said the new street signs should be here next week and will be placed in top of the stop signs at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Severins said we need to submit a claim to our insurance company for the flag pole that we had at the Village Hall. Treasurer Duitsman said he would add that to the next insurance claim submission.

Trustee Ehler said the lot just south of Casey's is owned by Ken Warner and Mark Garrelts. They would like to rezone it to commercial and sell it to Casey's so Casey's can expand their business. Travis Youman would also like to rezone the lot south of his auto spa to commercial for additional parking. There was discussion regarding the covenants for Sagen Acres. It was decided that the architectural committee for Sagen Acres will have to meet to get a detailed plan together to present to the Zoning Board.

Steve Griswold asked if there could be more police patrol during June and July when more construction will be taking place in the Village. Weary said he has already discussed this with most of the contractors, who say they will be sure to keep their equipment locked securely each evening.

Chief Weary said Chris Duitsman is working on his police certification, taking classes, and finding where they are offered. He can start working for the police department now, but would have to have his certification completed by September to be within regulations. He would need a uniform and a few other items.

Jess Childress said he has been contacted by JULIE in regards to a habitat house on Summit Street for Margie Lewis. Discussion followed.

Trustee Ehler moved the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Trustee Cler. All Trustees concurred in a voice vote. The meeting was properly adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

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Village Clerk

Approved by me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 2014.

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President of the Board