

Regular Meeting May 7, 2015

The Village Board of Trustees met at 7:00 p.m., in the Gifford Village Building, to hold their regular monthly meeting. Officers and Trustees present were President Ackerman, Clerk Baker, and Trustees Baxter, Carpenter, Cler, Jones, Pannbacker and Severins. Chief Weary, Water/Maintenance Childress and Treasurer Tracy Childress also present.

Guests were Philip Kisubiks (Rantoul Press), Dave Atchley (MSA), Jo Pisula (Donahue's), Eldon Hesterberg, Earl Smith, Cindy Duden, Mary Sutherlin and Tom & Daveda Reitz.

Eldon Hesterberg was here to present the keys to Mayor Ackerman. A couple items still pending, the generator is not up and working as of yet. It needs a battery and the code needs to be activated, also a wire is missing. He was going to contact Larry Lustfeldt about this. Landscaping will be completed the week of 5/11/15 and one cabinet needs to be replaced.

Tom and Daveda Reitz were questioning the timeline for clean-up across the street from their residence. Vehicles are on the village easement which they feel is a safety risk. Tractors and farm equipment are parked everywhere, they would like to see something done to get it cleaned up. Jess said they are going to fix the ditch and this should help with some of the vehicles on the village easement. The board said they would look into the issue further.

Mary Sutherlin would like to hold a festival in Gifford up-town the same weekend as the I&I Historic Farm Days event, which would be Saturday July 11th. Mary is starting a committee to work on the event. They are wanting to have a dog walk, kid's games, crafts and various vendors. She would like to hold it downtown to highlight businesses. She would like to shut part of Main St. down for this as well. The board was okay with her request pending an okay from the County Highway Department about shutting down part of Main Street.

Dave Atchley from MSA presented another Water Main Looping Cost and Options plan. See attached proposal, this design is still \$14,700 over the original budget and \$11,400 contingency is built into the estimate. Trustee Baxter would like to move forward, while Trustee Cler said we should not put any of our general fund at risk. Tracy is to talk to Kate about potential more grant money to use for the project.

Joe Pisula from Donahue was here to address the application from IEPA Childress received regarding a permit for nitrates in the water. There needs to be response within 10days to the IEPA, and the requirement to meet starts September 1, 2015. He suggested doing a letter of objection to lobby for an extension giving Childress time to do water samples. Childress and Trustee Jones are to do a conference call with IEPA on 5/8/2015. Worst case scenario would be to modify the lagoon system, lobby for an extension to be able to put a plan in place. Childress will follow-up with the board at the next meeting.

Each Trustee and Officer had been furnished printed copies of the minutes of the last regular meeting, Trustee Cler 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 (6 yes, 0 no). Trustee Cler made a motion to accept the minutes as read. It was seconded by Trustee Pannbacker. All trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no).

Each Trustee and Officer had been furnished printed copies of the bills to be considered for payment, Trustee Carpenter 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 (6 yes, 0 no). Trustee Cler made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Trustee Pannbacker. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no).

Each Trustee and Officer had been furnished printed copies of the Treasurer's Report, Trustee Baxter made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's Report, except for the summary. It was seconded by Trustee Jones. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes, 0 no). The balance in Village accounts as of March 31, 2015 was \$652,389.41. Total money received for the month of April 2015 was \$53,372.11, plus \$8.69 interest from CD#15399 and \$10.54 interest from CD#8170. Total expenses for the month were \$30,411.26, leaving a balance on April 30, 2015 of \$675,369.49. The balance in the Disaster Recovery Fund as of April 30, 2015 was \$810,984.28; money received \$104,002.59 and paid out \$473.55. The balance in the Tornado/WTP Construction Fund as of April 30, 2015 was \$373.87; money received \$2000.00 and paid out \$2560.00. The balance in the Tornado/Tower Construction Fund as of April 30, 2015 was \$14,363.87 with nothing received or paid out. The balance in the IDOT Construction Fund as of April 30, 2015 was \$343,124.17 with nothing received or paid out.

POLICE REPORT

The Police Report was read by Chief Weary. In investigative matters there were 15 incidents, 2 reports and no arrests. In traffic matters there were 27 incidents, 23 warnings, 3 citations and 0 arrests. Also brought up was the need for Loading Zone signs to be put behind the bank alley way to alleviate owners, etc.. parking in the alley way.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT

Trustee Jones reported activity for the month of April, 2015. Total gallons of water pumped for April, 2015 was 2,114,100 gallons. The average daily consumption of water for the month was 70,470 gallons. Childress reported he had to dig up water service on North Park and replace broken concrete pit, did the Consumer Confidence Report and had it published in last week's Rantoul Press according to the guidelines set by IEPA, cleaned up trash along roadway on Ernray Drive, raked sand filters at wastewater treatment plant and switched to summer operation, pulled weeds around lagoons at wastewater treatment plant, back washed all pressure filters at new water plant, logged all water bill receipts and made all deposits, took all water and wastewater samples and sent them into the EPA, sent out 13 letters for non-payment of water and wastewater bills, discontinued service for 1 non-payment, dug up catch basin by elevator and put in 6 inch riser on it and patched it in with coal mix, moved stuff out of pod to new building and started moving things from Hicksgas, and started patching the streets with coal mix.

STREET AND ALLEY REPORT

Trustee Cler had nothing to report at this time.

SANITARY AND STORM REPORT

Trustee Pannbacker had nothing to report at this time, he will meet with Dustin Ehler prior to the next meeting. Childress brought up a drainage issue from Christian's back yard into Grenentz's yard, Jess will talk to Christians about draining towards Main St.

POWER LIGHTS AND TELEPHONE REPORT

Trustee Severins reported there were 3 street lights out at Northe Pointe, waiting to be fixed. He also said the golf cart decals are ready.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Trustee Carpenter had nothing to report.

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

Discussion about rekeying the new village building, Chief Weary will take charge of this and then distribute the keys to appropriate people. It was also brought up that the new building needed a flag, Trustee Baxter will order this. Chief Weary, Childress and Tracy Childress were trained on the new phone system at the Village Building. Discussion about the lights coming on in the Village Building and the waste of electricity because of timer, Trustee Baxter will talk to Larry Lustfeldt about possibly changing.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion about the boulder out front, Childress will check on how far back the boulder needs to be. Discussion about mailbox for water bills, continue to pay at the bank for now until the boulder and mailbox are in place. Discussion about sirens in town, Trustee Pannbacker reported a map is to be drawn and possible suggestion for 2 more sirens and remote set off. Trustee Pannbacker will follow-up with Dave Bletscher from the Fire Department about completion of project by August 31, 2015. Trustee Pannbacker to report back at the next meeting. Trustee Pannbacker brought up about signage for the Village Building, all decided to look at an inexpensive sign for building. Trustee Baxter will check on sign for the building and signage for the door and report back at the next meeting, prior to any purchase. Trustee Baxter also brought up about buying new computers, discussion from those who use them at the Village Building said they were fine with what they have. Discussion also about the printer/copier/scanner, those who use this at the Village Building are fine with the printing/copying as is. Tracy Childress will have her printer looked at and or cleaned. Trustee Cler said money at this time needs to be built back up in reserves and not used if what we have is working.

Trustee Baxter made a motion to approve the budget for 2016. It was seconded by Trustee Cler. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes and 0 no).

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ackerman presented last month a renewal of our franchise with Nicor Gas for the next 50 years. He had it prepared by our attorney and is presenting now to be voted on. Trustee Cler made the motion. Trustee Pannbacker seconded. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes and 0 no).

Discussion about the long-term recovery committee from the tornado dropping the recycle hopper and does the Village want to pay for this to continue. Discussion was brought up from Trustee Pannbacker to look at a possible franchise for the garbage pick-up in town, which could also possibly take care of recycling. Trustee Pannbacker will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

2nd payment request for the new water tower. The bill, \$40,000.00 to be paid at the June meeting. Trustee Baxter made the motion. It was seconded by Trustee Severins. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes and 0 no).

Mayor Ackerman brought up that the property owned by Emord's on Main St. can be bought by the Disaster Recovery Committee for the Village, if the Village Board is okay with this. The Emord's want it used only for a park and have a couple things requested, a tulip tree put in and a sign/monument of some sort that the park is from the Emord Family. Trustee Cler made a motion to have the Disaster Recovery Committee purchase the property from the Emord's with stipulation to be used as a park with a tulip tree planted and some type of signage/monument put in from the Emord Family. It was seconded by Trustee Jones. All Trustees concurred in a roll call vote (6 yes and 0 no).

Trustee Baxter brought up that he spoke with Mr. McLain about more clean-up for stumps/trees/bushes for properties still needing assistance. Disaster Recovery Committee to take care of this if needed.

Trustee Severins moved the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Trustee Cler. All Trustees concurred in a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Approved this 4th day of June, 2015.