

Committee of the Whole
July 24, 2023
MINUTES
6:00pm

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brian Peight, Dean Rood (6:13), Brandon Smith, Cathy Stevens, Nicole Callos. Not present: Brooke Baldauf. Also present: Madi Becke, Wayne Gift, Cameron Reuter, Hailey Reuter, Sierra Mauer, Brandt Esling, Brian Nott, Kory Polhill, Abigail Bland, Lindsay Buss, Louise Workinger, Ben Cheeney, Nick Bergman

Call to Order

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of July 24, 2023 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2023

2) On a motion by Keeffer second by Smith to approve the meeting minutes from June 26, 2023. ALL AYE.

Approval of Bills Payable

3) There were no bills payable at this time.

Public Participation

4) Chief Wayne Gift recognized Officer Cameron Reuter with a plaque of accommodation for his selfless action on July 4th, 2023.
2) The municipal parking lot will be closed from 2-3pm on August 1st for the National Night Out.

Discuss Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation /Lining Project

5) Nott explained the upcoming sewer rehabilitation and lining project. He presented a loan application for 2.4 billion. The engineering fee could be added into the loan application as well. The price for the projects would not necessarily change with another company and will not be going out to bid at this time. It will be determined whether an ordinance is necessary.

Approve/Discuss Rodney Dietz Masonry Brick Sealant Quote for Village Hall

6) Callos explained that Rodney Dietz will be completing the sealing work on Village Hall.

Discuss Benning Group Audit Proposal

7) Callos stated the audit costs have increased from \$19,500 to \$25,000-\$30,000. Stevens is checking on if it would be beneficial to lock into a term contract with Benning Group for a decreased rate.

Discuss Village Electrical Contract

8) Callos explained that the Village has too high of usage to be eligible for the ComEd aggregate contract. Direct Energy will be supplying the Village with a quote. Buss is verifying if this requires board approval. Dynergy has the best rate for 24 months that the Board agreed upon.

Discuss Employee Vacation and Sick Time Accrual

9) Madi Becke stated there had been requests to change to a stated amount of vacation and sick days rather than an accrual of days based off employee's worked hours. Sick days carry over with a cap of 256 hours and vacation is a payout. Gift requested a letter of understanding for the union for this change. Employees will now have a certain amount of vacation and sick time every year. This will take effect January 1, 2024.

Discuss SRO Agreement

10) Madi Becke explained this contract has ended and the cost of the services need to be evaluated before entering into the next 3 year contract. Keeffer and Gift will be reviewing this and presenting to Tom Chiles.

Discuss Chicken Ordinance

11) Peight explained that he has made revisions to his rough draft ordinance after speaking with Chief Gift. A draft copy will be presented by Peight at an upcoming meeting.

Discuss Tree Removal Program

12) Buss explained that tree removal costs the Village approximately \$500-\$1000 per tree in the right of way. He proposed that they raise the resident amount to \$300. The Board agreed.

Discuss Lien Payments

13) Madi Becke explained that it has become an issue that people buy homes with liens against them without paying the lien. This was brought to Board attention and will be addressed.

Discuss Downtown Lena Parking Ordinance

14) Rental property owners have been notified to let their tenants know to not park in business parking during business hours. Police officers cannot enforce the courtesy 'customer only' parking signs. Buss will be reaching out to rental owners again and asking the lawyer.

Discuss Installing a Flagpole Downtown

15) The Board reviewed the estimate for removing the old flag pole downtown and installing one 40' flag pole with the US and Illinois flags. The POW flag will be placed at the fighter jet.

Discuss 5 Year Loan for Street Improvements

16) Buss explained that taking out the loan will get much needed street improvements done before prices inflate even more. The Board will be seeing about loans with local banks.

Discuss Full-Time Street Department Employee

17) Currently the Village has two full-time employees and three that are part-time. It was requested to have 3 full-time beginning in January 2024.

Discuss Purchase of County Tandem Truck

18) The County has a truck for sale that has more hauling capability than the Village's current truck. Peight will be getting more figures to the Board on pricing and specs.

Discuss Purchase of Side by Side for the Streets Department

19) Esling explained that streets has two trucks for all employees to use. It would be more efficient to have an additional vehicle that can get to places that vehicles cannot.

Adjournment

20) On a motion by Keeffer second by Stevens to adjourn the July 24, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 7:10pm. ALL AYE

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk