

Committee of the Whole
August 28, 2023
MINUTES
6:00pm

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Brian Peight, Brooke Baldauf, Dean Rood, Brandon Smith, Not present: Christin Keeffer. Also present: Brian Nott, Wayne Gift, Lindsay Buss, Louise Workinger, Jim McCabe, Nick Bergman.

Call to Order

- 1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of August 28, 2023 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes – July 24, 2023

- 2) On a motion by Peight second by Smith to approve the meeting minutes from July 24, 2023. ALL AYE.

Public Participation

- 3) No public participation at this time.

Discuss Civic Symposium September 14-15

- 4) Callos stated there is training she and Madi Becke are interested in participating in. The cost is \$235 a person for 2 days and includes information on the new Civic software system that has been installed that is used to organize the Village finances, budget, payroll, and audit prep. The office will be closed these days.

Discuss CD Renewals

- 5) Callos presented local bank CD rates for Board review since the sewer fund CD renews September 1st with Lena State Bank.

Discuss Village Newsletter Ideas

- 6) Stevens needs all newsletter items to be submitted to her by September 11th before they go out October 1st. Buss wanted downtown improvements listed. Stevens will be working with Madi Becke on this.

Discuss Employee Vacation and Sick Time Accrual Resolution

- 7) Buss stated that the Board is waiting on additional information from the attorney before going forward.

Discuss Chicken Ordinance

- 8) Peight included a sample of the potential ordinance for chickens. Gift stated there have already been issues with smell for chickens in the village currently. The Board will be addressing enforcing these ordinances. Buss stated the chicken ordinance will be up for approval at the September Board Meeting.

Discuss Village Hall Window Bids

- 9) Buss explained that there were two bids that came through to replace Village Hall windows. DNW Building bid was \$6,010 to replace all 9 windows on Village Hall. Another came in at \$16,850. The Board will be verifying material quality details for the bids since they are such different amounts and approved at the September Board Meeting.

Discuss Police Generator Bids

- 10) Buss stated the bid from The Electric Guys for \$2682.17 to share the Village Hall generator with the Police Department. It was verified that using a secondary transfer switch will not interfere with ComEd.

Discuss Ordinances and Fines

- 11) Rood brought up speeding concerns for Hickory Terrace and resident requests to have no parking on one side of the street. Gift stated that if the speed limit is not posted in residential areas the limit is automatically 25. This could be a concern for the entire Village and it was agreed a reminder on the Facebook page, website and newsletter could be the most effective. To proceed, a petition would need to be signed by every resident for no parking requests. The petition is not a guarantee of approval.

Discuss Ordinance Attorney

- 12) Gift explained that he has reached out to an attorney that would charge \$50 a case to represent the Village in court for unpaid tickets/ordinance fines. Court dates will be every Thursday. If offenses go to collections there would be no cost to the Village. The reporting officer does not need to appear at the court dates for 1st offenses. 2) Jim McCabe explained his scenario being affected by residents not following noise ordinances and not paying tickets or responding to letters from the Village lawyer. 3) Buss explained the court system is not something the Village foresees using often as most residents follow Village ordinances; this is just a method to have in place for the rare situation.

Discuss Additional Streets Department Employee

13) Peight asked that the Board verify that an additional employee was already included in the budget between water/sewer/street accounts. There are currently two employees to; The Village needs to add another employee to remain efficient and will begin looking for candidates.

Discuss Increasing Capital Improvements for Water/Sewer

14) Smith explained there had been no work done to the water treatment plant in over 20 years. With the amount of work to be done, including flood prevention, the Village is taking a loan to get this work completed before material and labor prices increase. An approximate \$29 monthly adjustment to water bills is necessary to get the Village water and sewer plant up to code. To prevent flooding within the Village, serious improvements must be made soon. The loan the Village is looking to take for this requires the Village to have funds available to pay the loan back. 2) Buss stated that the Village did not raise water bills when the new water tower was installed and has not raised them for years. The Village has among the lowest rates (\$48 flat rate) in the area. 3) All of this was addressed at the May 17th Flooding and Waste Treatment Plant Meeting that was open to all residents.

Welfare of the Village

Buss stated that Lena Fall Festival is coming up. The pavilion is still under construction. Shippee Road update: is currently primed and will be chip and sealed and is on track to be done tomorrow, August 29th. The fogging will be done in 2-3 weeks. Leet, School and William are in process. Martin Company is aware of Fall Festival dates and the work will not interfere.

Adjournment

15) On a motion by Peight second by Smith to adjourn the August 28, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 7:10pm. ALL AYE

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk