

Committee of the Whole
April 22, 2024
MINUTES
6:00pm

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brian Peight, Brooke Baldauf, Dean Rood, Brandon Smith, Cathy Stevens, Nicole Callos. Also present: Wayne Gift, Brian Nott, Kory Polhill, Cindy Drye, Gary Price, Richard Holmes, Sharon Welton, Michael Welton, Lindsay Buss, Shirley Wennerstrom, Louise Workinger, Jake Andrews, Nancy Franz, Gordon Dammann.

Call to Order

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of April 22, 2024 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2024

2) On a motion by Keeffer second by Peight to approve the meeting minutes from March 25, 2024. ALL AYE.

Approval of Bills Payable

3) Callos explained a check payment was made for Ben Cheeney and Brandt Eslings' spray licenses. On a motion by Keeffer second by Peight approving the bills payable report. ALL AYE.

Public Participation

4) Sharon Welton, secretary of the Lena Historical Society, presented their benefits and accomplishments. They are open Saturdays June through September and are looking for volunteers to be open more often. The Historical Society may apply for grants from the Village to assist in continuing preserving Lena's history.

Discuss CD Renewals

5) Callos explained two CDs are maturing this month and will be left to renew at Lena State Bank and Citizens State Bank.

Discuss Gills Disposal Statement

6) Callos stated she had an audit done on the Village Gills statements. There was a missing payment in February of 2008 when Gills changed their billing to be ahead. Callos will be looking into making payments to resolve the statements. No interest is being charged on the balance as the bill is paid every month.

Discuss Village of Lena Grant Policy

7) Stevens stated the current grant requests require a presentation for each grant application. She said this is relevant only for new organizations and will make a draft changing grant requirements for a later Meeting. Grant applications would need to be in before March Committee of the Whole meetings to be approved at April Board every year.

Discuss JC Wifi Contract

8) Buss stated this is the rental contract for the water tower. This contract renews every 5 years and must be notified 60 days before renewal to adjust. Inflation cost is built into the contract, and will be reassessed.

Discuss CPI Water/Sewer Rate Adjustment

9) Smith says he will have more information in June.

Discuss Blighted Homes

10) The following discussion was held on blighted homes: The median income of Lena is too high to be rewarded grants for demolition. Anthony Coon handles violation code enforcement for homes that are a safety hazard. Most blighted homes are paid up to date on property taxes; some have liens for water bills. It is \$65 for a title search to find out who owns properties.

Discuss Building Codes and Permits

11) Rood offered a draft of additional building guide information and questionnaire to be given with building permits. This is more important especially since there is no building inspector at this time for Stephenson County. Rood explained the current ordinance does not specify 'utility shed' and 'garage'. The verbiage will be amended that under 200 sq ft is considered a utility shed; any bigger is a garage. Rood provided links to guides for sheds, decks, patios, porches, electric, plumbing and mechanical codes. Stevens stated it would be helpful to have these resources as QR codes on the permit.

Buss stated there will be bids from all three local banks for the Village's loan for review.
There was no need for Executive Session.

Adjournment

12) On a motion by Keeffer second by Rood to adjourn the April 22, 2024 Meeting at 7:17pm. ALL AYE.

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk