

Village of Washburn

Mayor
David Humphrey

April 12, 2010
Monthly Board Minutes

Board of Trustees
James Gebel
Larry Roop
Linda Silver
Bill Strauch
Nate Swanson
Larry Tomlinson

Village Clerk
Becky Ulrich

Village Treasurer
Cheri Delap

Water/Sewer/Street Department
Mark Frerichs

Chief of Police
Craig Rutledge

Mayor David Humphrey called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken: all members were present.

The March meeting minutes were reviewed, the only amendment was to correct the spelling of the name Kull, which occurred three times. Larry Roop made the motion to approve the minutes, Jim Gebel seconded it. All ayes, motion carried with changes as amended.

The March Executive Session minutes were reviewed, the only amendment was to correct the name of the owner of the Washburn Leader to read Scott Hubble. Mayor Humphrey made the motion to approve the minutes, Larry Roop seconded it. All ayes, motion carried with the change as amended.

The March Special Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Larry Roop made the motion to approve the minutes, Nate Swanson seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

The bills were reviewed. Jim Gebel made a motion to pay the bills and Larry Tomlinson seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Humphrey opened the meeting to the audience.

Bob Beschorner had two concerns he wanted to address. The first concern was regarding what was happening at 314 E Walnut Street. The board told him this situation was already on the agenda to be addressed at the meeting. The second concern was regarding the gutters and drainpipes around the town. Bob has noticed they are bulked with gravel that is clogging them. Jim Gebel said the street committee had discussed this situation at their meeting on the previous Thursday. He said the issue was being taken care of. The town has hired a company out of Spring Bay to come in and sweep the streets.

Charlie Kennell addressed the board regarding the road closure of Route 89 during the Washburn Fall Festival. The dates of closure would be August 19th through August 22nd. The board did not have any concerns with this. Route 89 is scheduled to be resurfaced sometime this summer so there may need to be some discussion with IDOT if it is scheduled during the festival. Mayor Humphrey noted that we will need to pass a resolution and send it to IDOT as we have in the years past.

STREETS: On April 1 bids were taken regarding Resolution 10-4 Seal Coat Maintenance. We only received one bid in the amount of \$29,790.67. Jim Gebel made a motion to accept this bid, Nate Swanson seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

There was also discussion regarding town Clean-up day. Two bids were received. The first bid was from LaRose Disposal in the amount of \$140/roll-off plus \$45/ton landfill fee. The second bid was from Tomlinson Disposal in the amount of \$145/roll-off plus \$45/ton landfill fee. Jim Gebel made a motion to accept the bid from LaRose Disposal, Larry Roop seconded it. Larry Tomlinson abstained because one bidder is a relative, all other members were ayes, motion carried. The date has been set for Wednesday, May 19 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Large containers will be available on the lot south of the town Library.

Jim Gebel also said the committee is looking into purchasing our own street cleaning machine instead of outsourcing the job.

WATER/SEWER: Bill Strauch brought up that the current palm for water meter reading is dying and the committee had been asked to approve purchasing a new one for approximately \$1,200. The committee approved the purchase and Cheri Delap had already ordered the new palm. *Jamm*

Bill Strauch also mentioned the committee had recently spoke with Mark Frerichs regarding some issues around the town. These issues were hopefully going to be taken care of in the next week or so.

POLICE: There was discussion of three properties that were in need of cleaning up. The property on the corner of Water and Jefferson had been cleaned up by Amy Gustafson. The property on Edgebrook Court was cleaned up by the Real Estate. Regarding the property on 314 E Walnut, a citation and three warnings have been issued to the owners. However the owners have moved and haven't provided a forwarding address. There have been many complaints regarding the current situation at the property. The committee wants to get approval to take bids to hire someone to clean up the property. This would include the inside and outside of the house, the garage and the actual property. Danny Schroeder recommends that we do hire someone to come in and secure the property. He also recommends that we film/photograph everything with the contractor incase the owners would try and come back on the town. Whatever cost is incurred during the clean up we will put a lien on the house. The house is currently being foreclosed. The board agreed we would indemnify the contractor that cleans ups the property. Linda Silver made a motion to authorize Chief of Police to hire a contractor and indemnify that contractor to clean up the property, Jim Gebel seconded it. All ayes, motion carried. Danny Schroeder told the board that once we received the bills for clean up to let him know and he will place the lien.

Craig is currently looking into having community service people clean rocks out of peoples yards from snow plowing.

Linda Silver read the monthly police report.

INSURANCE & TIF: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: There was an informational meeting with Keith Swartzendruber of Snyder Village and his attorney. Snyder Village is currently unable to sell the property and would like to get out of Washburn. Snyder Village would like to have a "zero lot line", which would enable them to sell the duplexes separately. They would also like the additional lots turned into single-family property. There is also an additional five acres available that is wanted by the farmer, but the town also has the option to purchase it. There is sewer available to the property but it is not currently hooked up. Snyder Village will be providing the cost they want for the additional five acres and may be coming to the next board meeting. The board needs to be thinking if we should or should not by the acreage.

LIBRARY: Larry Roop has been in communication with the Director of the Library and they have come up with an Agreement Concepts. Larry wants a consensus from the board to keep moving forward on the Agreement Concepts. This Agreement Concepts was provided to the board members and everyone agreed for Larry to continue on. Larry would also like to have Danny to look over the Agreement Concepts before we officially approve it. It was also noted that we would like to put something in the Agreement Concepts that no part of the museum in the Library can be removed.

PARK: Kulls started mowing Half Moon already. They have also provided a Certificate of Liability to Nate Swanson. Mark Frerichs dropped off some mulch to the park and it has been spread around the swing set area.

FEMA Update: Mayor Humphrey recommends not passing their resolution. You are unable to buy flood insurance unless you are part of the FEMA Program. If we opt out of the FEMA Program there will be no more "Flood Zone" in Washburn. Our options are to pass the resolution or completely opt out. The board needs to make a decision by September 17th, 2010 as to what we plan to do. Mayor Humphrey has given the information to Danny Schroeder for his recommendation.

Updates from Danny: The first update from Danny is regarding Mr. Murrah. Mr. Murrah has filed bankruptcy. Now we cannot further pursue him until the bankruptcy court tells us we can. We are basically on hold until further notice. However, Mr. Murrah can still pursue us.

The second update from Danny is regarding the Leader matter. Scott Hubble has been communicating directly with the client (us), which is strictly forbidden. Danny has sent a letter to Mr. Hubble's lawyer telling him to only

communicate through attorneys. In the communication Mr. Hubble sent us he is offering to charge \$1.00 for our publications, previously we were being charged \$30 per column inch, however Act 15 Section 1 states that the minimum rate is \$0.20 per column line fore each insertion. Therefore, Mr. Hubble is breaking the law offering us the price of \$1.00 per publication. Danny recommends turning down Mr. Hubble's offer. During this discussion Tammy and Stephen Prather are urging the board members to contact Beth Bennett, Government Liaison for Illinois Publisher Association (IPA), with any questions we might have regarding this issue. Tammy will provide Ms. Bennett's contact information to anyone that would like it. Also, during the discussion Tammy mentioned that she wishes she could provide the board with some type of legal certificate proving that she is a legal paper, but she is unable to do so at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS: Approval was granted for all items on the Action Requests list with the exception of the FEMA action, which Mayor Humphrey said we would discuss and make a resolution at a future meeting.

The board members agreed to meet on Monday, April 26th at 7:00 p.m. to finalize and approve the FY11 Budget.

Jim Gebel made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and was seconded by Larry Roop. All ayes, motion carried.

Washburn Village Clerk

Date