

Village of Washburn

Mayor
David Humphrey

June 14, 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. Roll call was taken: all members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

The May meeting minutes were reviewed, no corrections were needed. Larry Roop made the motion to approve the minutes, Bill Strauch seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

The bills were reviewed. Jim Gebel questioned a bill from the Village Attorney for charges on 4/15/10, 4/16/10 and 4/20/10 regarding FEMA. Nate Swanson made a motion to pay the bills and Larry Tomlinson seconded it. There were four ayes and two nays so a roll call vote was taken: Bill Strauch – yes, Linda Silver – no, Jim Gebel – no, Larry Tomlinson – yes, Larry Roop – yes, Nate Swanson – yes. Vote ended in a 4 – 2 to pay the bills.

Rodney “Rusty” Tribe from Ameren Cilco was at the meeting to make the board aware of him and the services he offers. Rusty is our point person with Ameren Cilco. His job is to talk to towns, schools etc regarding power safety, power outages, etc. He wanted to stop by the meeting to introduce himself and let us know what services are available to us.

Mayor Humphrey opened the meeting to the audience.

Beth Ledbetter read a letter she wrote to the board regarding the status of 307 E State Street. She lives next door to this residence and claims that the unoccupied house is varmit infested and is unsafe for her grandchildren to play near. She also claims that the property is unsightly to look at and the residence appears unsafe. Ms. Ledbetter is frustrated with the town because she has tried for the nine years that she has lived here to get this residence cleaned up and taken care of but each time she’s tried to initiate something with the police department, the ball gets dropped. Ms. Ledbetter is saying that she’s had damage done to her house by raccoons that are living in the residence next door. Charles Christ owns the property at 307 E State Street. Mr. Christ was at the meeting and said that he can keep the mowing up but he is frustrated with Ms. Ledbetter because she keeps her garbage out and it gets strewn throughout his yard and doesn’t feel it’s his responsibility to pick up her trash in order to mow. However, Ms. Ledbetter says that only reason her trash is in the yard is because of the raccoons living in/around the house get into it and string it around.

Chief Rutledge asked Mr. Christ what the condition of the actual house is and Mr. Christ said it only needs minor repairs such as carpet, etc. Chief Rutledge stated that there are huge holes in the roof, rotten through and missing shingles, missing windows, no gutters, and the back porch looks completely unsafe and is overgrown with weeds. Chief Rutledge then asked Mr. Christ if he could walk through the house to see if the inside is unsafe, however Mr. Christ said it’s not necessary and wouldn’t allow him to do so. Mr. Christ then said he would keep up the mowing and board the broken windows. Ms. Ledbetter then asked if Mr. Christ has ever been ticketed for the grass getting out of control and Chief said not as long as he’s been working for the town. Mr. Christ agreed to have the grass mowed before the end of the week.

On a side note, Larry Tomlinson asked about two city lots at the industrial park and why they haven’t been maintained. It will be looked into.

STREETS: Larry Roop said he’s been in contact with Simon and Road Oil wants to know when they can come in to repair the streets. Marc said they would have the spray patching done ASAP to get Road Oil in here. We receive such a good price quote from Road Oil to finish Alexander Street that we got an additional quote to fix the mess on Park Street. They estimated it would cost an additional \$1,530 to mill, patch and re-chip it. Due to getting an

additional quote for the extra work we may have to pay some of the money of out the general fund, but it would be a maximum of \$450.

There have been several requests to replace some sidewalks. Owners can replace sidewalks on their own and the town will pay 50 percent of the cost. We may also be able to get some grant money to replace the sidewalks on school paths.

Everything has been approved for the road closure for the Fall Festival.

There have been a couple of complaints regarding the excess gravel at intersections saying it's unsafe for motorcycles, etc. We are working with Chief Rutledge to see if the community service people can remove it.

It was also asked how much money was saved by doing the town-wide junk day the way we did this year and compared to last year we saved \$6,500. It was mentioned that with this kind of savings we could possibly afford to do a clean-up day two times per year instead of just one. Also, we could get the community service people to help for future dates.

Larry Roop made a motion to approve the work on Park Street with a chance of up to \$450 being taken out of the general fund, Jim Gebel seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

WATER/SEWER: Bill Strauch brought up that we aren't getting any chlorine out of the water line. Simon says that if we can prove that we've already had it injected we don't have to get a permit to get a new injection point put in. Simon says that we aren't doing anything "wrong" but he's saying that we may need to change the injection point or up the dosage because right now supposedly there isn't any chlorine out put. Therefore, we aren't meeting the minimum requirement. Mayor Humphrey suggests that Larry talk to Marc to see what's going on.

Larry Tomlinson mentioned that at the meeting they once again discussed some repairs for the water treatment plant and purchasing a humidifier. According to Siemens the filter unit is in fair condition and they have given some recommendations. The recommendations are: 1) fix the surface corrosion, 2) purchase a dehumidifier, and 3) replace the filter. Simon has worked up a quote for the bare minimum all the way to the max to make the repairs. The media quote is \$18,000, the dehumidifier quote is \$27,000 and we would have to have someone come in and give us a quote for the painting. Simon says each thing can be done separately. The media would have to be done first and we would have to by pass the water during down time (roughly two weeks) and we would have to get EPA approval. Simon recommends looking at replacing the entire unit five to ten years down the road. The board recommends getting bids for Media replacement. We should have Marc look into it and if he needs help Simon can help him.

Jim Cummings with Economic Development Company was there to talk about grant application info and CDAP grants. Mayor Humphrey thought we already approved spending up to \$3,300. Jim does surveys for grants for \$1,000. The Board could do it ourselves but it's a lot of work. Our surveys are expired so we need to do a survey if we want to apply for any CDAP grants. If Jim needs to mail more that 400 surveys it would cost an additional \$200. Survey samples are usually good for five years. Jim Gebel thinks we should go ahead and have Jim do the survey incase some grants come up we would already have the survey done.

Larry Tomlinson made a motion to spend the \$1,000 (and the \$200 extra if necessary for the additional surveys over 400) to have Jim Cummings conduct the survey, Jim Gebel seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

POLICE: The first thing discussed was regarding what we need to do for the mowing up-keep for the lien on the property at 314 E Walnut Street. The only other item mentioned was that we've received a letter saying that this property is now being foreclosed on. We need to get Chief Rutledge a copy of this letter.

INSURANCE & TIF: No Meeting, nothing to report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Linda Silver brought up that at the committee meeting it was discussed whether it would be helpful to develop some sort of questionnaire to see if the town can help the local business stay afloat. Washburn has a lot of business/attractions for being such a small town and we want to help keep things that way if possible. If anyone has any information or questions they would like to have added to the questionnaire, please contact Linda Silver.

LIBRARY: There was no monthly meeting. Larry Roop has still not heard anything further from the Library attorney regarding the contract.

PARK: Bill Strauch said that the Summer Rec. Program has requested a donation of \$1,000. We usually donate \$1,500, but this year they are only asking for \$1,000. Bill Strauch made a motion to donate the requested \$1,000 to the Summer Rec. Program, Nate Swanson seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

ZONING BOARD: Mike Silver was in attendance to ask some questions but he said they had all been answered already.

UPDATES FROM MAYOR HUMPHREY: Mayor Humphrey was contact by someone from the Department of Homeland Security and they want to know if they can use Village Hall as a base to coordinate relief efforts incase of a catastrophe. If we are in agreement to let them do so, we need to provide them with a couple of names of people that have access to the building. Linda Silver made a motion to allow the Public Info Office Committee, sub committee of Homeland Security Region 10, use of Village Hall and provide them with a list of all board members and their contact information, Larry Tomlinson seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

The second item discussed was the newspaper matter. Danny talked to the States Attorney and he said that we will not be cited if we use the Washburn Whisper to publish our information, according to paragraph 5B of the law. Danny talked with many people/experts asking them to show him what a legal printing process is or isn't and no one has done so. The Washburn Whisper uses a \$20,000 lithography system with four drums. Mr. Charles Christ was in the audience and he said he worked at the Leader for 13 years and that they don't even use one of the three printing process listed deemed legal by law. Danny's opinion is that we can use either paper. Larry Roop recommends we use the cheapest. The consensus of the board is that we will get bids with both the Leader and the Washburn Whisper and use the cheaper of the two. If there should happen to be a tie, we will flip a coin.

UPDATES FROM DANNY: Danny mentioned that the village must pass something every year regarding Prevailing Wage. If we don't do so we are unable to apply for grants/funding, etc. Danny provided the board with Prevailing Wage Resolution R-10-06 and the prevailing wage information. Larry Tomlinson made a motion to approve the Prevailing Wage Resolution R-10-06, Larry Roop seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a liquor license application presented to the board. The board needs to approve the application in order for them to get a liquor license. Chief Rutledge will do a background/criminal history check of the new owner/leaser. Mayor Humphrey wants the board to keep in mind that we can always reverse the approval if something comes back in the background check. Larry Roop made a motion to approve the Liquor License contingent upon the findings of a background check by Chief Rutledge, Bill Strauch seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

It was brought up that there is an ordinance violation at 109 N Adams Street, due to a business being run out of a residential zoned property. A salvage business cannot be run out of a house. The salvage business needs to be moved to the Industrial District with a special usage license. Mayor Humphrey recommends that if this is true that a citation be issued and if we cannot get compliance with the owner then we will notify Danny and he will take care of the issue.

Larry Roop made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. and was seconded by Linda Silver. All ayes, motion carried.

Washburn Village Clerk

Date