

# Village of Washburn

**Mayor**  
David Humphrey

July 11, 2011  
Monthly Board Minutes

**Board of Trustees**  
Edward Grebner  
Randy Ragains  
Larry Roop  
Robert Stanfield  
Bill Strauch  
Nate Swanson

**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 June meeting minutes were reviewed, no corrections were needed. Larry made the motion to approve the minutes, Ed seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

The bills were reviewed. Nate made a motion to pay the bills, Randy seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Humphrey opened the meeting to the audience.

Jim Cook was at last month's meeting and forgot to ask about having a beer garden during the festival this year. Chief Rutledge and all the board members were ok with him having the beer garden. Jim also wanted to know if anything had been looked at with the pothole problem by his driveway. Ed said Mark was supposed to be taking a look at it, but nothing had been done yet.

Jim also wanted to mention that Elandorf took place over the Fourth of July weekend. He said there was approximately 2,500 people in attendance and feels that this is a good revenue for our town and that we should accommodate them better. He's heard a lot of complaints about people getting pulled over, harassed, etc. In his opinion we should be working with them rather than be working against them.

Becky then asked about publishing. She had received quotes from The Washburn Whisper for the Resolutions/Ordinances that need to be published and was surprised at the expense. Becky wanted to know if we should publish through them or if we should/can look into publishing with someone else. She felt like she could not spend that kind of money without getting approval first. Danny's opinion is that we go ahead and spend the money and publish with The Washburn Whisper. He said that there is a new act/law trying to get past right now that will allow us to publish this type of information on our website, so this expense will be short lived. Nate asked if we could publish an abbreviation of what needs to be published saying that the rest is available if someone wants to read it. Danny doesn't recommend this. Larry made a motion to publish with The Washburn Whisper and also suggested that we write a letter to our Representative to help push this act/law along, Nate seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

**STREETS:** Ed said that they talked about adding some new Stop signs. They decided against adding an all-way stop at Adams & Magnolia. However, they have decided to add an all-way stop at the corner of Main & Church. Ed then made a motion to adapt Ordinance 11-03 to add an all-way stop at the corner of Main & Church, Randy seconded it. All ayes, motion carried. Ed also mentioned that he's put out bids for sidewalks and replacement of the Police Department roof. Bids will be opened on August 4<sup>th</sup> at the next committee meeting.

It was also mentioned that they want to vacate an alley in block 13 of Black's Addition. Danny said landowners can have the option to receive up to the half-way point of each alley if they want. This alley is currently just a piece of land that isn't being used for anything, its just grass. There was some discussion about where this alley is and why we want to vacate it. It was said that maybe we should put this information out there to hear any concerns and we will discuss more at next month's meeting.

**WATER/SEWER:** Bill said that Mark told him lightning hit the water tower and blew the circuit board. Mark currently has it rigged and is working but need to get it fixed/replaced.

**POLICE:** Larry mentioned that lightning also damaged the Police radio and it had to be repaired.

It was also mentioned that there had been some discussion with Craig about some citizen complaints. One complaint is speeding, especially on Jefferson on the weekends. They have talked about rotating the weekend shift.

There were also some complaints about not enforcing Ordinances. We are looking into it.

Larry then made a motion to move \$10,500 from the Corporate Fund to the Police fund for June, Nate seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Larry also said they are still looking at hiring another full-time police officer instead of all the part-time employees.

Next Larry mentioned that they had talked about the storm siren. Larry said he is prepared to make a motion to purchase the storm siren with contingency that we can make sure it will be hooked into Woodford County. He has talked with Jesse and the Fire Department is ok with housing the unit there. Larry said that he is concerned with the cost. The one that he would recommend is \$22,500. Danny asked about grant money/ESDA money. Larry & Craig said that there is basically nothing available. Cheri said that we have about \$2,000 is ESDA that we could use towards it.

There are several unbudgeted items that have come up recently but if something is important enough we'll find a way to make it work.

Larry made a motion that pending Woodford County's 911 Committee's approval and ability to activate any storm warning siren we may purchase, the purchase of a Vortex R3 Siren System from Ragan Communications for a total of \$21,918.80 as noted in Quote #1008, Randy seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Nate asked if we would want to purchase the siren even if Woodford Co can't activate it. Randy asked if we could do it by hand held radio? Yes, we could.

Larry also provided a June 2011 Police Activity Report.

**INSURANCE & TIF:** Randy spoke with Susan James with the Illinois Municipal League regarding insurance. If we are the controller/responsible party we are insured. If we are not then we should ask for a certificate for Insurance Coverage for that special event. Mayor said that he thinks the Festival Committee does carry insurance and that we should contact them and ask for a copy of their policy.

Marg from the audience wants to know why some people get away with keeping junk/cars/tires, etc and some don't. She feels there's a lot of junk lying around. Mayor said Larry already mentioned we are going to start enforcing this issue more.

Cheri mentioned that Phil is coming to officially start the audit.

Carl Tomlinson was there representing the Legion and wants to know if the Village would fill the potholes/blacktop the parking lot because the semi's coming through have it all cracked and torn up. Ed will take a look at it.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Mayor handed out a sheet with Annual Gross Sales numbers for Washburn Community Foods (WCF). We get 1% tax from that. On average from 2005-2010 we get approximately \$9,500/year. WCF is asking for some of that tax money back. Mayor said a while back we did give a kick back by waiving the sales tax.

Randy read a letter that previous mayor Bridget Marquez wrote to WCF in 2006. Randy said he is a shareholder and a shopper of WCF. However he thinks we need to make a decision based on a business standpoint. Why would we pass a tax increase last year, then turn around and give tax back this year?

Mayor thought the store was about \$20,000/year in the red. Mayor also mentioned that his family holds shares with WCF.

Rob thinks we need to get the community more involved and help us make a decision on whether or not we should give a rebate. Linda Silver was in the audience and commented maybe we could have some kind of donation/money generation event to go to the store. Linda also had an idea of showing a movie and having a concession stand and the money made at the concession stand could go to the store. If anyone has any money making ideas for WCF we should take it to the Board Association of the store.

There was some further discussion regarding this issue. Nate then made a motion to rebate \$6,500, Larry seconded it with the understanding that this is a one-time only rebate.

Cheri wanted to go on record by stating because of her position as treasurer she does not support/recommend the rebate. It is noting personal, it is strictly from a business point of view. Cheri also commented as a citizen, that she thinks the store needs to get the motivation and generate ideas rather than the village trying to do so.

Danny then mentioned that everyone that has shares with WCF needs to reclude themselves from discussing the motion and voting on the motion. Mayor and/or his wife hold shares. Randy also holds shares.

Ed mentioned that we need to make the Board of WCF aware of what's going on and maybe have them look at getting some new board members to get a better plan in place.

Danny said he doesn't feel that the store has given us much effort regarding their business books. Why haven't we had a public meeting...showing the books/plans/concerns/fundraisers, etc? It was also mentioned that they couldn't believe that no one from the store showed up to defend themselves at the meeting. Danny recommends more discussion on the topic before any decision is made.

Cheri also mentioned that even if we haven't given a rebate, WCF has come and asked for one every year.

Larry said he talked to Tim Schoon on Saturday morning and told him he didn't think it would be voted on tonight so that may be why no one is here. Larry said he would be willing to retract his second if we could get them (WCF) to come to next month's meeting and give us some information. Larry then withdrew his second. Nate withdrew his motion with the understanding we will discuss and vote on at next month's meeting with the store representatives here.

Cheri is going to post some signs once she gets confirmation that WCF will be attending the meeting.

**LIBRARY:** Larry received a letter about the grates. Nothing further to report.

**PARK:** Rob said that Summer Rec is looking at constructing a building at the park. They are putting something together and plan to build this structure with spending the least amount of funds as possible. They are going to ask the School Board for a donation. They will also be asking the village for some money at some point. Right now, Rob is just looking for the board members support to see if they can continue.

The current plan is to do one building that contains a concessions/restrooms/storage made of concrete/concrete blocks.

Larry suggests contacting DNR to make sure we have their blessing before proceeding.

The consensus is to proceed with due diligence...vote of confidence all board members are in favor.

**UPDATES FROM DANNY:** Danny doesn't have any updates.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Larry said that the copy machine seems to be getting worse. It's now common to have a 4-in-1 machine. We could get a multi-purpose machine for less than \$600. Larry thinks we can get more for our money if we buy a refurbished unit. Larry made a motion to purchase a 4-in-1 Laser machine, black & white or color, spending up to \$600, Ed seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Cheri also mentioned that the fax is also acting up.

Mayor recommends that we go with a color machine.

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m., Randy seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

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Washburn Village Clerk

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Date