

Village of Washburn

Mayor
David Humphrey

October 10, 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 September 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. Bill made a motion to pay the bills, Larry seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Humphrey then opened the meeting to the audience.

Donna Hawn was there to speak representing the Women of Washburn (W.O.W). They have started renovating the mound up by the helicopter near the Legion. It is a large project and is going to take several, probably about 2, years to complete due to cost. W.O.W were wondering if the town has any money they can use for beautification. The project is estimated at \$4,000; however, this estimate could come down if they can get some volunteer labor. Larry made a motion that if this is TIF eligible we donate up to \$3,500, if it is not TIF eligible we will still commit to donate \$1,000 to the project; Ed seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Donna also mentioned that the W.O.W put in a community sign several years ago. At that time, they had asked if there could be permanent lighting installed, the board at that time said yes Jesse Erkman could do something but it still has never been done. She wanted to know if this could be re-addressed. Ed will talk to Jesse and see if there's anything that can be done.

STREETS: Ed said that the new sidewalks are in and look real nice. He also mentioned he talked to Mark regarding the culvert at Jim Cook's. It is a bit high, so Ed asked Mark to cut it down some.

Next Ed mentioned that the roof work at the Police Department should be complete by the end of the month.

Ed also said we've received a couple of calls regarding trees. Regarding one of the complaints, the resident said they will trim it back themselves because it's some type of memorial. The other wants the tree cut down. Ed said no because we don't have any more money in the budget this year and it is a good live tree, just a nuisance because it's a walnut tree.

Ed then mentioned the Red's truck is currently broke down so we are not sure when the other two trees will get removed.

There is currently about a half of day of spray-patch work left to be done.

Ed also mentioned that the three sidewalk driveways are not worth sending letters to the owners regarding cost. It only cost us an additional \$150.

WATER/SEWER: Bill wasn't at the committee meeting. He did mention Cheri will be on vacation the 13th -21st.

It was mentioned that we received all the insurance money for the lightening strike.

The next topic was regarding a Mutual Aid Agreement; it was turned over to Danny to discuss. The Public Works Department has been asked if we would be willing to enter into an agreement to work with other area Public Works

Departments (i.e. Eureka, El Paso, etc) in the event of an emergency situation. This is something that we would be compensated for if our labor were needed. Eureka is having a meeting tonight and would like us to let them know after our discussion if this is something we would be willing to do. Danny doesn't have anything ready tonight but we could go ahead and approve tonight and he would draw something up to present and have signed at next months meeting. Larry made a motion to agree to enter into the Public Works Agreement, Ed seconded it. All ayes, motion carried. This will be a resolution; Danny will get the document and number ready.

Danny also noted to Bill he talked to Mrs. Grebner's lawyer and he is supposed to be getting with Mrs. Grebner soon. It was said that a contractor will not touch the line without a contract. There was some discussion with Lee Grebner, son of Mrs. Grebner, regarding this issue and what options are available.

Danny has received all the info for the Alley Vacating; he will have everything ready for next meeting. If the owners of the property have any questions they've been told they can come to the Water/Streets Committee meeting next month.

POLICE: Larry mentioned we currently do not have any updates on the investigation yet.

Larry called for a siren update, but hasn't heard anything back yet.

Regarding police patrol...back in June, Larry brought up something about having 1 fulltime cop and the chief. Craig is looking into this. If we were to hire someone, the candidate would be put through a physical fitness test and several interviews. Recommendations would come from the Chief and Police Committee members.

Larry made a motion to transfer \$8,000 from the corporate fund to the police fund, Ed seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

INSURANCE & TIF: Randy didn't have any updates.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Randy provided the board with some material regarding Municipal Electric Aggregation. He said our window of opportunity is small so we need to act fairly quickly. With this program we would be able to re-coop 15-25% of energy costs. If we are interested we would need to hold a special meeting, because discussing at our November meeting would be too late because of all the materials/things that would need to be done. Everyone would be included in this agreement and individuals would be required to opt out on his or her own if we accepted this program. Ed asked if there is any other company's in IL that offer this. Because we'll probably have a fee to pay, why not be able to keep the money within Illinois instead of sending it to New York. Randy said he talked to the City Administrator in Eureka and said Good Energy gave best prices of all companies. Bill asked who's responsibility is it to maintain lines, transformers, etc? Ameren/Cilco is still responsible. Larry thinks it's worth looking into. Mayor told Randy to go ahead and see if he could get something set up.

Nate mentioned that Lee Grebner approached us about buying lot #4 at the Industrial Park. Lee gave Nate a drawing/plan of what he would like to do with the lot. His plan now is to put up a building, then eventually put up another building and a fence in order to start a towing business. Larry asked how much of the lot is buildable? Lee said he would have to move quite a bit of ground/dirt to have a good area to build both buildings. Ed said there's probably 60-70 feet of ground that would not be usable. The lot is 260 feet North to South...so about 200 feet of usable space. We paid \$5,000/acre for the area out there. What kind of price are we talking? Mayor said all the lots have been sold for around \$5,000/lot. Randy asked if it's ever been appraised? Yes, back in 2008. Lee said it's going to take approximately \$3,000 to get it usable for him. He was thinking about \$2,500 for the lot. Larry made a motion to sell Lot #4 to Lee Grebner for \$2,500, Rob seconded it. All ayes, motion carried. Danny will draw something up for this. Lee would like to get going on this as soon as possible. He wants to get the dirt work done before the ground freezes. Wanted to know if he can start working now, before anything official is drawn up? It's Lee's risk so we don't see a problem with it.

LIBRARY: Nothing to report.

PARK: Rob said Kull's have come to us and asked if we can just keep them instead of bidding out the mowing of Half-Moon Park. Larry would like to draw-up a standard with Kull's in mind and bid out one more year. Then let people be aware that we have the option to renew their contract without having to bid it out. There was some

discussion regarding this topic. Rob then made a motion to keep J&J Lawn Care as the mowers for next year at the same price as this year (\$4,650), not bidding it in the spring; Nate seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Bill – yes, Rob – yes, Ed – no, Randy – no, Larry – no, Nate – yes. Vote was tied 3-3. Mayor said he sees both sides of the story. Mayor voted to go ahead and give the job to J&J Lawn Care again this coming year. He thinks it's really hard to come up with a set of specs for this type of job. Mayor asked that J&J help us come up with some guidelines

OTHER BUSINESS: Larry mentioned that last month it was mentioned ordinances are complaint driven; however, he can't find anything that says it is complaint driven. Mayor said Craig can take action if he sees fault even if there's no complaint, but it can be complaint driven.

Randy said regarding the Washburn Festival, the beer garden operates under the Legion. Doesn't know if this is following the ordinance because it states the liquor license is non-transferable. This is something we'll have to look at for next year.

It was mentioned Mark's contract states he's up for a performance bonus. Mayor said we were supposed to have ended those contracts...and that Mark got a percentage raise and would not be receive a performance bonus.

Randy brought up that C&J's is in violation of an ordinance with the signs they have hanging in the windows. There was a discussion regarding this issue. Randy then said that the signs needed to be taken down. Mayor said he will not ask them to take them down because he doesn't want to open up a can of worms regarding an issue that is starting to settle down.

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m., Ed seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Washburn Village Clerk

Date