

Village of Washburn

Mayor
David Humphrey

November 14, 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 October meeting minutes were reviewed, Larry mentioned there were a few typos. Ed made a motion to approve the minutes, correcting the noted typos in the official copy, Larry seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

The bills were reviewed. Rob asked if when buying something from Carquest if we include a slip stating what was bought? Cheri said Mark usually does include that so if there isn't one in there for this month she will ask Mark for it. Larry made a motion to pay the bills, Ed seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Humphrey then opened the meeting to the audience. No one wished to address the board.

STREETS: Ed said that there wasn't anything brought up at the committee meeting regarding the vacation of the alley. Rob then made a motion to vacate the Blacks Addition Alley, Ed seconded. A roll call vote was take: Bill – Yes, Rob – Yes, Ed – Yes, Randy – Yes, Larry – Yes, Nate – Yes. Vote was 6 yes, 0 no. Motion carried. Danny will get all necessary information out.

Ed asked Cheri how much money we had left in the budget for STOP sign replacements? Cheri said we had just over \$600, plus some extra in another line item so roughly \$3,000 left in budge. Ed recommends replacing all the old STOP signs with the high visibility ones. Ed made a motion to spend approximately \$2,000 to update all the STOP signs with the high visibility type, Larry seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Ed noted that we lost a half-day of spray patching because Ace in the Hole ran out of oil and didn't want to order anymore for the year.

Ed also mentioned that he wants to get a job responsibility list put in place for Mark as soon as possible.

It was also noted we received another complaint regarding a tree. Cheri said we have \$950 left in the tree budget for the year.

WATER/SEWER: Bill said there wasn't much to update. He did mention that we got the sewer line ran across the creek for Grebner's. It's not hooked up yet though.

POLICE: Larry made a motion to transfer \$9,000 from the Corporate fund to the Police fund for this month, Ed seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Larry mentioned that the storm siren should be getting installed anytime now.

Chief Rutledge did talk to Jesse about tapping directly into the Fire Department electricity line and Jesse said that wasn't a problem. Jesse also said he would put a stake in the Julie needs.

Next Larry mentioned someone at the committee meeting asked if there was an ordinance regarding Police not being able to leave city limits. Mayor said if there is an emergency situation and have been called for back up they will/should respond. Craig said that they will/do respond to calls outside of town, but do not patrol outside of city limits.

Larry has been working with Craig regarding Police Department requirements. They have come up with a list of information that would be important/required when/if the time comes to hire a full-time officer.

Larry then provided the board with a sheet of the current number of calls for October. There were 75 calls responded to.

Larry said he doesn't see a need for an Executive Session unless Craig and/or Danny has any new information regarding the police investigation. Danny doesn't have anything new, neither does Craig. No executive session is needed for the evening.

INSURANCE & TIF: Randy gave Mayor something from our Insurance. Dave said our insurance went up \$15,000 for next year. Dave called and asked them why and they said it was because of one night. Dave asked if we have compared rates with other insurance companies, and that we haven't, we should be getting other quotes. He also questioned if the rate hike was legal, however the insurance company didn't really give a good answer. Randy said he will talk to the current holder we have about the rate hike situation. Our premium for next year is coming due and it was recommended that we only pay the first installment instead of paying the entire thing as usual.

Mayor said that Washburn Community Foods (WCF) is very TIF eligible...lot resurfacing, replacing the roof, replacing coolers/equipments, etc. Mayor doesn't know how much help the town wants to give the store, but wanted to put the information out there. Ed mentioned other business have complained because we helped the store and haven't helped others, and they are hurting too. Mayor said the store is a bit different because the store is not personally owned as all the other businesses are.

It was also mentioned that the Women of Washburn (WOW) project can be/is included in TIF and Cheri let them know we would be funding \$3,500 of the project. WOW has already started working on the project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Regarding the sale of the lot to Lee Grebner, Danny said Lee can come to Danny's office to get things finished.

There were some questions from Danny regarding the Good Energy contract. Randy faxed the information back to them but he hasn't heard anything back. The deadline is January 2nd so we would have to pass at the December meeting.

Lee asked if there is a problem with putting up a windmill at the industrial park? A company contacted him looking to put one in our area. Mayor said there is a possibility of an ordinance restricting the height etc. He said Lee would have to check with the Zoning Board regarding height requirements, etc. Mayor said it would also be a good idea to check with Marshall County to make sure they don't have any ordinances against it.

LIBRARY: Nothing to report.

PARK: Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS: Danny will be preparing the Tax Levi Ordinance and wants to discuss tonight. He wants to know if the usual 5% increase is sufficient? If we want to go over that we will need to have a public meeting and a bunch of paper work would be created because of it. Cheri, as treasurer, thinks we need to take the full 5%. Randy doesn't see how we can raise people's taxes when we just have money away to WCF. After some discussion, the consensus of the board is to stick to the usual 5% increase.

Judd Giffin was here to speak. He used to be the village engineer when he worked for FOTH. Now he has a business partner and they have their own business up in Henry. He wanted to come to the meeting and put themselves out here to see if there is any need for their engineering services here. The current municipalities they have are: Benson, Toluca, LaRose, Henry, Lacon, Bradford, Viola, and Rutland. It was asked how they do their rates. They usually do a lump sum basis. However, they do have an hourly rate for incidentals, but would much rather do a lump sum rate. Judd mentioned that they like to pride themselves on not having to come back with additional bills. It was suggested that they maybe work with the street and water/sewer committee to see if there's

any possibilities. Mayor said he didn't think we would have anything until next years MFT. Judd and his partner will plan on coming to the next committee meeting (December 8th at 6:30 p.m.)

Danny will take the information regarding the mutual aid agreement to the office for review and send on once reviewed.

Larry made a motion to provide a holiday bonus of \$200 for full-time employees and \$100 for part-time employees, in "Washburn Bucks", with merchants to be determined; Rob seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m., Ed seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Washburn Village Clerk

Date