

Village of Washburn

Mayor
David Humphrey

December 12, 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 November meeting minutes were reviewed. Ed made a motion to approve the minutes, Larry seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

The bills were reviewed. Larry made a motion to pay the bills, Rob seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

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

Phil was here. He provided the board with some documents regarding the audit report. Then Phil took the board through the audit report. He said that the overall finances are pretty much in order. Phil also mentioned that Cheri has started to separate the funds out in bank accounts, as it's supposed to be but hasn't been done this way in the past. Danny wanted to mention that Cheri has done an excellent job in getting things in order. In years past the report was much more grim and the audit report was a couple of years behind.

STREETS: Ed said the committee talked with Mark the other night. Last month they gave him a list of jobs to complete around town. Ed said 90% of the list has been completed; the other 10% Mark had questions about and that's why they aren't done yet. Ed also said most of the stop signs have been replaced and that now they are currently looking into replacing some of the other main signs around town.

Judd Giffin wasn't able to attend the committee meeting this month, but hopes to attend next month.

Ed mentioned that Mark seems to be very accepting of the new job plan. Cheri said he has been filling out the report as asked.

Next Ed mentioned that the committee talked about possibly extending the new sidewalk by the grade school to create a better crosswalk. If this happens it would be in next years budget.

WATER/SEWER: Bill said the Grebner sewer is completely hooked up now. Bill also mentioned that they talked about working on the water line at Snyder Village.

Bill also said he talked with Mark about cleaning up a couple of things.

POLICE: Larry made a motion to transfer \$9,500 from the Corporate fund to the Police fund for this month, Ed seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Larry said they spent most of the committee time discussing hiring a full time police officer. He said it seems that we have the funds for a full time officer; the stickler is that we don't seem to have the funds for the insurance (medical, etc). Larry said he's asked Craig to come up with some detailed info and he's currently working on it. Larry said that they hope to give Craig the go ahead to put a full time job opening out there.

Mayor noted that it's a major expense so we need to make sure we weigh all the options. Larry said it's still in discussion and nothing has been decided. The committee is not ready to bring anything to the board yet.

Larry mentioned that they've also talked about redesigning the Police patch. Craig has talked with Mr. Zulz at the school regarding holding a contest with the students.

Mayor asked if we've thought about putting markings on the police cars. Larry said he looked into it a while back but can readdress it.

INSURANCE & TIF: Randy has received all the information he needs to be able to go out and get bids/quotes for with other insurance companies.

Larry noted that last month we opted to pay the current insurance premium for only 6 months, but on the actual bill it stated we must give them 6 weeks notice if we change/drop anything. It also said we are locked in for 1 year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Nothing to report.

LIBRARY: Nothing to report.

PARK: Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS: Danny is asking the village to pass a tax levy. It is being increased by 4.99%. This is basically a cost of living type increase. Larry made a motion to approve Ordinance 11-05, Nate seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Bill – yes, Rob – yes, Ed – yes, Randy – yes, Larry – yes, Nate – yes. All 6 yes, 0 no.

Next Danny mentioned that a while back Randy brought in someone from Good Energy to talk about pooling energy. Danny presented Resolution 11-05 regarding pooling energy with other municipalities. Danny said we would need the resolution to be passed tonight in order to get all the necessary paper work done to get it on the March voting referendum. It was noted that if we pass this, it would be Good Energy's responsibility to promote/push the plan. It was also mentioned that even if the referendum passes, members of the community could choose to opt out.

Good Energy is responsible for providing the community members with all the necessary information to inform them on what energy pooling is all about.

Danny also noted that individual energy usage is never given to the supplier; everyone is lumped into one large number.

Danny also has a service agreement that would have to be signed.

Larry made a motion to approve R-11-05, Rob seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Bill – yes, Rob – yes, Ed – yes, Randy – yes, Larry – yes, Nate – yes. All 6 yes, 0 no.

Larry mentioned the condition of the wooden antique chairs; they are probably a liability. However, we probably shouldn't just get rid of them because they are antique. Mayor said we should get a quote on getting them fixed. If it's too costly to repairs, we could see about putting a bid out to sell them. Mayor asked Cheri to contact Elite to see if they can give us a restoration quote and a quote to fix them. Cheri also noted that someone came in and offered to pay \$40/chair, but we have no idea how much they could be worth. So we are going to try and look into that as well.

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., Rob seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Washburn Village Clerk

Date