

**Village of Justice
Economic Planning Board Meeting
7800 S. Archer Road, Justice, IL 60458
Minutes of Thursday, July 16, 2015**



The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM

ROLL CALL:

Economic Development Coordinator Brittany Abrams called the roll. Present are Chairman Matthew Zarebczan, Board Members: Orley O. Betcher Jr., John Kapecki, Wojciech Dziechciowski, and Fran Mills. Not in attendance Joseph Davern Jr., and Mariola Zygmunt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 18, 2015 regular Economic Planning Board meeting as submitted or if necessary as corrected.

MOTION: Fran Mills. Moves: To approve the minutes as submitted.

SECOND: John Kapecki

VOTE: Orley O. Betcher Jr., John Kapecki, Wojciech Dziechciowski, and Fran Mills.

All ayes. Motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Matthew Zarebczan announced the new businesses in town; Next Level Detail Shop doing business at 7857 S. Cronin Ave, B&D Investment Group dba the Justice Party Hall at 8507 S. 88th Avenue in Justice, I Corp. dba Environmental Recycling & Disposal operating from 2277 W. Moen Ave. in Rockdale, IL.

The Village is still waiting on sign offs from the bank. The 83rd Street and 88th Avenue Hill is still in the process of negotiating a development agreement. A meeting was held with IDOT concerning the Tollway Ramp plans and there wasn't much feedback, but it seems that all felt this was a great project. The Village and Burke Engineering has scheduled a kickoff meeting with Cook County this upcoming week regarding the Tollway Project.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Justice Chamber of Commerce Annual Rib Fest will be held on Saturday, July 25th from Noon-3PM at the Lipinski Community Center.

Michael Zalewski, our state representative, will be at Justice Village Hall on Friday, July 17 from 12PM to 2PM. He will meet with village residents and discuss any of their questions, concerns, or suggestions.

CORRESPONDANCE:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Business Retention & Expansion-**

John Kapecki dropped off some business surveys to a few businesses and will pick them up when they are completed. Fran Mills and Brittany Abrams made three business visits. Many businesses were complaining about property taxes and were concerned about being assessed if they were to make any upgrades. Follow-up visits will take place for businesses who expressed their concerns or issues while answering survey questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Economic Development Coordinator, Brittany Abrams, brought up the idea of a Village Value Coupon Sheet that will allow Justice businesses to better market their business within the community. Each business can place a coupon for our residents to use for a specified period of time. Fran Mills said a sheet would be a lot more cost effective rather than an actual book. The Planning Board will share ideas with Brittany before the next meeting so that a final plan can be explained. Once plans are finalized, the Economic Planning Board will present the idea to the Board of Trustees for feedback and further suggestions. This coupon marketing tool will be a great way to assist our businesses by promoting shopping locally and getting the businesses name out to the public.

Chairman Matthew Zarebczan will like to make a plan for the Village Sign Sponsorship Program for 2016. In the past a Motion from 2011 was passed to commence implementation of an Adopt a Sign program for sponsorship and maintaining of each sign by a local businesses or other interested parties. \$200 was the annual fee for this program. Chairman Matthew Zarebczan asked the Economic Planning Board to share their thoughts on increasing the fee by \$100. The additional \$100 would be used for maintenance and upkeep of the sign by the Village. Fran Mills said signs should be uniform in design. Board members explained that by charging an upkeep fee the signs would be better maintained and consistent throughout the year. Chairman Matthew Zarebczan would like to pass a motion at the next meeting and then bring it to the Board of Trustees.

Chairman Matthew Zarebczan got in touch with the transportation department from Cook County to discuss the Industrial Park Sign. They said if the village sends a google earth image of where they would like the sign placed then Cook County would look into it. They can determine where and what size sign can be placed in that given area. Transportation Department also mentioned they possibly could create the sign and the village can pay them for it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fran Mills stated that while visiting businesses, many owners thought sign requirements were too restrictive. Each Economic Planning Board member was given a copy of the sign ordinance as well as the rules for temporary sign permit and placement. Temporary Sign Ordinance was explained by Chairman Matthew Zarebczan. Temporary signs are not allowed on state right of ways.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Trustee Sue Small said it is nice that Michael Zalewski is reaching out to community but he may have a better turnout at an evening meeting rather than midday. More people can

attend when they get home from work in the evening. Asbury Hills has weeds growing on the side of property owned by village and resident would like to know when these will be taken care of. Something to keep in mind when proposing the Village Sponsorship Program that there may be mixed thoughts on the idea of changing the previous program because sponsors take pride in their signs. Some sponsors are not businesses and the Economic Planning Board also should consider that as well when determining an annual fee. Trustee Small said if coupon program can be fine-tuned then she thinks that it will be a great idea and opportunity for our businesses.

Trustee Melanie Kuban asked about the cost for the coupon sheet and wanted to know what the businesses thought about cost. Fran Mills explained there was no cost discussed when speaking with the businesses but instead trying to make it an incentive. Coupon sheet may be easier to spread over a three or four month time period. Sewer bill will not be a good way to spread this coupon sheet to the community because there are business who pay for advertisements in the newsletters. Advertisements help pay for the newsletter cost. Coupons can be available at public buildings in town and businesses. There also needs to be a liability release on these coupons. In regards to temporary signs and how people tend to leave signs up after event is over, Trustee Kuban explained Public works picks up temporary signs that have been out over the specified period of time, or those signs that appear from passer/buyers.

Trustee Hank Oszakiewski stated that this coupon books needs to happen now. Show that we are here to assist. Village residents need to support our businesses in town to help Build Justice Together. Advertisements are different from coupons. Trustee Oszakiewski also would like to meet with ComEd this fall for a follow-up meeting about how the Synchronsit Program is going here in the village.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chair will entertain a Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION: Orley O. Betcher Jr.

SECOND: Fran Mills

VOICE VOTE: All ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Abrams

Economic Development Coordinator