

VILLAGE OF JUSTICE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
7800 ARCHER ROAD, JUSTICE, IL
FIRST REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF MARCH
Minutes of Monday, March 9, 2015

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. by Mayor Kris Wasowicz.

ROLL CALL:

Clerk Kathy Svoboda called the roll. Present are Village President Kris Wasowicz, Trustees: Rich Sparr, Rick Symonds, Ed Rusch, Melanie Kuban and Hank Oszakiewski are present. Trustee Sue Small is attending electronically via teleconference. Attorney Michael Cainkar of the firm of Louis F. Cainkar Ltd. is also present.

PLEDGE:

Village President Kris Wasowicz led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 Regular Board Meeting as submitted or if necessary as corrected.

MOTION: Trustee Sparr Moves: To approve the minutes as submitted.

SECOND: Trustee Oszakiewski

VOTE: Trustees Sparr, Symonds, Rusch, Kuban, Oszakiewski and Small, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Wasowicz informed all that we have been approached to consider a Petition for a Variation from Zoning for a Special Use to operate a Medical Marijuana Dispensary at the Justice Towne Square strip mall at 8340 S. Roberts Road. We will be convening a public hearing in order to consider the petition in the very near future.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT:

Clerk Kathy Svoboda mentioned that the Stagg HS Music Boosters are sponsoring an Arts & Crafts Show on Saturday and Sunday, March 21st and 22nd. More information is posted in the vestibule.

The Public Notice for the Appropriation Ordinance Hearing is scheduled for publication in the DesPlaines Valley News on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. The hearing will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 23rd before the regular board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE AND INSURANCE – Trustee Ed Rusch Jr.

MOTION: Trustee Rusch Moves: To approve payables 1-27 in the amount of \$25,610.01, recurring expenses of \$63,405.79 and MFT expenses of \$11,895.01, for a total of \$100,910.81.

SECOND: Trustee Kuban

VOTE: Trustees Symonds, Rusch, Kuban, Oszakiewski, Small and Sparr, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

Trustee Rusch announced that starting with a \$250,000.00 deficit and cutting capital expenditures in half and working with department heads to restructure some purchases we now have a balanced budget.

Trustee Rusch expressed his pleasure at the board packet being provided in a folder for the board members use. He asked Clerk Svoboda to thank whoever was responsible. She replied that he is very welcome as she put together the packets.

Trustee Rusch asked President Wasowicz to introduce the Resolution urging the Governor and General Assembly to protect full funding of local government distributive share of income tax revenues, as he is most familiar with the content.

President Wasowicz explained that we receive income tax, sales tax and motor fuel tax from the State of Illinois. Governor Rauner is considering cutting the municipal share of income tax revenues by a full 50 %. For the Village of Justice this would result in a loss of approximately \$640,000.00 in a given year, nearly 10% of our General Fund operating budget.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To approve Resolution 2015-06, A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROTECT FULL FUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTIVE FUND REVENUES.

MOTION: Trustee Rusch so Moves:
SECOND: Trustee Kuban

Trustee Henry Oszakiewski spoke about the proposed Resolution.
He said:

Governor Rauner, as he spoke during his election and recently reiterated at his State of Illinois Address, has shown us that all expenses need to be reviewed to move Illinois to a balanced budget. We in Justice know what it takes to balance a budget. It takes searching for ways to turn the ship around, maybe belt-tightening, maybe compromise, maybe a realistic look at current expenses, and even maybe tough decisions that are taken now to insure balance in the future.

Recently, we received word via the media, that all municipalities' funding could be affected by the State's budget review process.

As Illinois citizens, we all knew the finances didn't look pretty. As we saw in Justice a few years ago, we saw our finances needed a correction, and this mayor and board did what they had to do to get Justice to a place where we are now. Happily we have returned to live within our means in a balanced budget annually each year.

We all know what we read in the media is the first pass, and we can all appreciate what we are told by our State elected officials is worse than what we had imagined.

We need to let them continue to do their due diligence and allow them to propose officially a plan, perhaps taking more years than we needed to take in Justice, to become solvent. But their plan over the next few years needs to be officially presented to us before we respond to what we were told in the media.

The citizens of Illinois elected Governor Rauner to bring about change and we need to be able to support him as he engineers a plan to make Illinois solvent. Once we receive an official document as to what terms we can expect to receive from the state we can respond then.

Until that time, any resolution in this regard is premature or counterproductive to reaching a solvent and balanced budget for Illinois.

VOTE: Trustees Sparr, Symonds, Rusch, Kuban, and Small, aye. Trustee Oszakiewski abstained.
Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING & RECREATION – Trustee Sue Small

Trustee Small had no formal report.

ORDINANCES, LICENSES & PUBLIC PRINTING – Trustee Henry Oszakiewski

Trustee Oszakiewski will table action on the business license for the Dollar Plus. They have not completed there inspections to proceed at this time.

The next meeting of the Economic Planning Board will occur on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

The deadline to participate in the Flower Pot Program is March 16th. A number of businesses and taxing districts are participating. The cost is \$65.00 per pot/per year. The pots will be placed, fully planted and ready to enjoy, and will be picked up and stored at the end of the season.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Trustee Melanie Kuban

Trustee Kuban had no formal report this evening.

PUBLIC UTILITIES –Trustee Rick Symonds

MOTION: Trustee Symonds Moves: To approve Ordinance 2015-04, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, ARTICLE VII, TREES AND SHRUBBERY, SECTION 7-314, VILLAGE PICK UP OF BRANCHES, OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF JUSTICE.

SECOND: Trustee Oszakiewski

VOTE: Trustees Kuban, Oszakiewski, Small, Sparr and Symonds, aye. Trustee Rusch abstained. Motion passed.

MOTION: Trustee Symonds Moves: To approve Resolution 2015-07, A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FROM COOK COUNTY.

SECOND: Trustee Sparr

VOTE: Trustees Oszakiewski, Small, Sparr, Symonds, Rusch and Kuban, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

Public Works Work Schedule for weeks of:

February 23, 2015 to February 27, 2015

And March 2, 2015 to March 6, 2015

As of this date we have used approximately 900 tons of salt for the season. There is about 360 tons remaining in the Public Works yard.

Snow plowing and salting were performed on a few days. Senior driveways were plowed. Several stop signs and street signs were replaced. Cold patching is ongoing. Storm drains were cleaned in several areas.

New tires were installed on truck #5 and also on the Tahoe. New hydraulic hoses were installed on #4. New filters and oil change was performed on the asphalt machine.

Sweeper repairs were completed by Cesar's Equipment. Maintenance was performed and brakes were installed on some police vehicles.

Zalewski Trustee Symonds thanked all that facilitated and attended the recent trip to Springfield to meet with our representatives. Mayor Wasowicz, Trustees Sparr and Symonds, and Matt Zarebczan attended the trip. State Senator Steve Landek and State Representative Mike were quite cordial and it was a pleasure to meet with three of the Governor's staff members, and also, Brian Oszakiewski, Hank's son, who is a member of Governor Rauner's staff.

Mayor Wasowicz commented that it is extremely helpful that Senator Landek is also a mayor and truly understands the challenges that municipalities face.

BUILDING, PLATS AND ZONING – Trustee Rich Sparr

MOTION: Trustee Sparr Moves: To schedule a Public Hearing at 7:00 pm on Monday April 13th to consider the passage of an ordinance vacating portions of 78th Street east and west of Blazer Avenue and to determine which abutting landowners of the vacated portions shall acquire title thereto, and the compensation to be paid to the village therefor.

SECOND: Trustee Kuban

VOTE: Trustees Small, Sparr, Symonds, Rusch, Kuban and Oszakiewski, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

Trustee Sparr commented that inspections are increasing in number; we are seeing higher sale prices on properties in town; and there are few unoccupied business locations.

The fire-damaged and vacant house at 8403 S. 79th Ave. in Roberts Park has been sold and permits for demolition of the structure will be forthcoming.

ComEd is commencing tree trimming in the area. You are likely to see them out soon. They are required to haul away the branches they cut.

Trustee Sparr added his good feelings about the conversations held in Springfield. It was a very promising and productive day.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Attorney Mike Cainkar had no formal report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was none of note.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

7:00 pm

Committee of the Whole:

GSI Presentation: Regarding a proposal for an LED lighting program.

FINANCE & INSURANCE: Trustee Rusch

Review of posted payables, review of the proposed Appropriation Ordinance and other matters before the committee.

ADMINISTRATION BLDG. & RECREATION: Trustee Small

Any matters before the committee.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Trustee Kuban

Any matters before the committee.

ORDINANCES, LICENSES & PUBLIC PRINTING: Trustee Oszakiewski

ED Updates, any new business licenses available for review including “In the Cut”, a barber shop, doing business at 8403 S. Roberts Road. Also, plans for the vehicle sticker design contest and other matters before the committee.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: Trustee Symonds

Any matters before the committee including surplus equipment, possible purchase of equipment- pickup truck, the Roberts Road Sewer Improvement Project, and the 2015 street resurfacing plan.

BUILDING, PLATS & ZONING: Trustee Sparr

Any matters before the committee including plans to proceed with a hearing for the possible vacation of the 78th Street - street dedication east and west of Blazer Ave.

Executive Session: If necessary

VOICES FROM THE FLOOR:

Mr. John Small asked about the notice to the public for the Appropriation Ordinance Hearing on March 23rd, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Indeed, notice was published in the DesPlaines Valley News of the date and time of the upcoming public hearing.

Mr. Small then asked if publication of the proposal for developing the Asbury Woods Park Property has occurred.

No publishing is required, and so far, the proposal is more of a concept plan. No specifics on financing or engineering are available.

Mr. Mike Gordon asked about the restoration of the areas disturbed and torn-up by the installation of the fiber optic cables.

Building Commissioner Ed Shilka stated that as soon as the weather allows restoration should commence.

Mr. Jim Strickland asked about the 84th Place water main replacement project. When will clean up and restoration occur.

Mayor Wasowicz replied that restoration by the Water Commission will occur as weather allows and will bring the property back to its former condition.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To Adjourn.

MOTION: Trustee Sparr so Moves.

SECOND: Trustee Symonds

VOICE VOTE: All ayes.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen M. Svoboda
Village Clerk