

VILLAGE OF JUSTICE
7800 ARCHER ROAD, JUSTICE, IL
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SECOND REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF MARCH

Minutes of Monday, March 23, 2009

Village President Kris Wasowicz called the Meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

PLEDGE:

President Wasowicz led the Village Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Village Clerk Kathy Svoboda called the roll. Present are President Kris Wasowicz, Trustees: Michael Murray, Jim Gabrys, Mary McGee, Rich Berkowicz and Jeff Kranig. Trustee Ed Jurgel is absent this evening. Attorney Sara Gadola of Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton and Taylor, Ltd. is present.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2009 Regular Board Meeting as submitted.

MOTION: Trustee Berkowicz so Moves:

SECOND: Trustee McGee

VOTE: Trustees Murray, Gabrys, McGee, Berkowicz and Kranig, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mayor Kris Wasowicz had no report.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT:

Village Clerk Kathy Svoboda reported that more than 100 seniors attended the Spring Senior Luncheon at the Wm. O. Lipinski Community Center on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 11:30 am. Mike the Entertainer did an outstanding job of entertaining the group with celebrity singer impersonations. A truly good time was had by all.

We are seeking those with artistic talent for an Art Show, tentatively scheduled for June 28th at the Lipinski Community Center. Painters, sculptors, quilters, jewelry makers or those who express themselves through art that would like to display their work are encouraged to call the Village Clerk's office to sign up. There will be no charge to the exhibitors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE AND INSURANCE: - Trustee Mary McGee

MOTION: Trustee McGee Moves: To approve payables numbers 1-42, in the amount of \$50,105.61, posted for the period of 03/04/2009 – 03/18/2009, plus re-occurring expenses of \$124,535.30, TIF #1 expenses of \$54.06, MFT expenses of 7,970.91, for a total of \$184,665.88.

Trustee Gabrys stated that there is a bill from Lyons-Pinner Electric for the repair of a street light at Maplewood and Archer. That light has not yet been repaired. Trustee McGee stated that she would remove the bill from the payables correcting the total to items 1-41, in the amount of \$43,733.80, and the grand total to \$176,294.07.

SECOND: Trustee Berkowicz
VOTE: Trustees Gabrys, McGee, Berkowicz, Kranig and Murray, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

Trustee Mary McGee stated that she received a number of calls regarding statements that were made indicating that we were having trouble making payroll and that our current bills were not being paid on time.

She reassured residents that this was not the case. The property tax revenue has come in on a timely basis, and we have ample funds to operate the Village. Our monthly bills average \$150,000.00 or more, and just like your own households; those reoccurring expenses are already accruing as you pay the previous month's bills. Our budget is on target and we are experiencing no financial difficulties.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Trustee Gabrys

Trustee Gabrys reported that Jim Lurquin provided a thorough report from Jim Lurquin about the Federal and State funding we have applied for.

Deputy Public Works Director Ken White has informed us that one of our trucks has an electrical problem that will require repair at the Ford dealer.

We are continuing to clean and swale the ditches in town to facilitate storm water drainage. Some of these projects are more ambitious than others requiring the installation of culvert pipes.

Our chipper was in for a factory recall and will be ready to start chipping as scheduled, April 1st.

Cold patching continues until the asphalt plants open in early April. We have ordered additional barricades for readiness during spring storms.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Trustee Mike Murray

Trustee Murray thanked our Congressman Dan Lipinski, Mayor Wasowicz and Trustee Kranig for their part in obtaining the \$100,000.00 grant for the Police Department to update communications equipment.

Trustee Murray introduced Chief Bob Gedville to perform a Presentation honoring three, courageous officers for their parts in saving a life.

On October 8, 2009 Lt. Carmine Consolino of the Cook County Sheriff's Police spotted a fire from Archer Ave. in the Arbors town homes. Lt. Consolino drove to the fire and contacted the Justice Police Department. Lt. Consolino started evacuating the residents of the four-unit building as the fire department was dispatched to the scene. Residents of the building advised Lt. Consolino that there may be a resident in a unit of the building. Lt. Consolino and Corp. Ronald

Brenza of the Justice Police Department kicked in the door and heard human sounds from the living room. With the townhouse engulfed in smoke and flames they entered the building and crawling on the floor, dragged a semi-conscious, middle-aged woman to the doorway. Officer Carmen Scardine then entered the building and carried the woman to safety. The victim was taken to a local hospital and treated for smoke-inhalation and minor burns.

Chief Gedville presented the Justice Police Department Life Safety Award to Lt. Carmine Cosolino of the Cook County Sheriff's Police and to Cpl. Ronald Brenza and Officer Carmen Scardine of the Justice Police Department.

Our most sincere thank you to these brave public servants.

MOTION: Trustee Murray Moves: To approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Justice and the Roberts Park Fire Protection District for the Village to perform all fire and related dispatch services for the Fire District.
SECOND: Trustee Kranig
VOTE: Trustees McGee, Berkowicz, Kranig, Murray and Gabrys, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

MOTION: Trustee Murray Moves: To approve the hire of one, radio dispatch operator in the Justice Police Department.
SECOND: Trustee McGee
VOTE: Trustees Berkowicz, Kranig, Murray, Gabrys and McGee, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING & RECREATION – Trustee Ed Jurgel

There was no report.

ORDINANCES, LICENSES & PUBLIC PRINTING – Trustee Rich Berkowicz

Trustee Berkowicz stated that there are currently, five new business licenses pending.
Rich Berkowicz is working with Jim Lurquin on a number of updates to our code. He will be bringing those updates to committee as they become available for review.

BUILDING, PLATS AND ZONING – Trustee Jeff Kranig

MOTION: Trustee Kranig Moves: To approve Resolution 2009-03, A Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of the Zoning Map of the Village of Justice, Including All Revisions Up To March 20, 2009.
SECOND: Trustee Murray
VOTE: Trustees Kranig, Murray, Gabrys, McGee and Berkowicz, aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

Trustee Kranig announced that we have several projects applied for through the Stimulus Bill. We are hopeful that some of our projects will be considered. Frontage Road reconstruction has been included in the submittal but is also planned as part of TIF #3 infrastructure improvements.

Banks St. from 75th to Blackstone, Blackstone from Figura to Banks, 85th Ave. 79th to the Toll way, 82nd Place for a full reconstruction, 90th, 85th Place, 85th Street, Cork Ave., Industrial Drive, all of these projects have been submitted for consideration.

All of these projects are shovel-ready should funding become available.

Trustee Kranig has been working on the resurrection of the project to construct a Storm Sewer down Cork Ave. to the 71st Street Ditch. He has compiled considerable data spanning many years to bring to Springfield on April 22nd when he will represent the Village at a legislative forum where he will have the ear of many of our legislators and State agencies. He will bring home some help for our flooding problems.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY:

Attorney Gadola reported that a Federal mandate regarding the FACT Act is coming up at the end of May. We will be looking at those requirements at an upcoming meeting. Also, there are considerable changes to the Open Meetings Act and Attorney Gadola will send a memo outlining those changes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Kranig asked anyone who may have photographs or film of flooding incidents that have occurred in the Village to please provide them to him he will duplicate and give back the originals. .

NEW BUSINESS:

SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Committee Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm. and follow consecutively
Wednesday, April 8, 2009

FINANCE & INSURANCE: Posted payables, donations to other agencies and other matters before the committee, including a presentation regarding our health insurance renewal rates from Mesirow Financial.

BUILDING, PLATS & ZONING: Any matters before the committee.

ORDINANCES, LICENSES & PUBLIC PRINTING: Any new business licenses or ordinances available for review.

ADMINISTRATION & RECREATION: Update regarding plans for the Fest and other matters before the committee.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Closed Session for the discussion of appointment, employment, discipline, compensation or performance of one or more classes of employees.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: Any matters before the committee including proposed projects for the next quarter and needs of public works.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mrs. Brenda Egas asked about the hiring process for a radio-dispatcher. Chief Gedville replied that prior dispatch experience is desired. We hire the most qualified candidate by an application process. We do not maintain a list for dispatchers nor do we employ a testing process.

Mrs. Egas stated that she had applied in the past, and was never called for an interview.

Chief Gedville stated that a candidate must have been hired before they got to her application.

Mr. Tom Janes reminded us that a dispatcher is a lifeline to the first responders that they are in radio contact with, and that extreme care should be taken to hire a truly qualified person.

Mr. Janes complimented the organizers and the village board for the Spring Senior Luncheon. It was a well executed event and everyone had a great time. He encouraged the Board to continue to honor the senior citizens of the community. They are the backbone of our village

Mr. Janes continued by voicing his support for the new, village newsletter, offering his opinion that rather than a political move as had been stated, it was a great effort at communication with our residents.

Mr. Ed Rusch suggested that we contact John Hoefflerle to review his files for any photographs or film of historical flooding events.

Mr. Rusch suggested that we need to clean out the secondary ditch along Blackstone at 71st. It is filling up with rocks and debris.

Mayor Wasowicz said that we must contact the railroad for their consent, since the ditch is on their property.

An assessment of the condition of all of our ditches has just been completed. We are prioritizing the work that needs to be done.

Mr. Jim Rinkus stated that there is a Com Ed pole leaning badly on Oak Grove near the tower by the park.

Com Ed has inspected the pole and assured us it is not dangerous.

Mr. Joe Egas asked if the Stimulus money is being filtered through the State.

Trustee Kranig said indeed the money will come to the State of Illinois and then be distributed through the EPA, DNR etc.

Mr. Egas asked how much money we hope to receive from the Stimulus package.

President Wasowicz replied that we were asked to submit all shovel-ready projects. We submitted \$7,243,000.00 worth of projects. We have no idea what we may receive.

Should we be awarded any funding through this initiative, we would be required to perform the project that the funding was allocated to and to provide the necessary matching funds. We might be able to shift an award from one street to another, but that would be the very most leeway that we would have.

If we do not receive Stimulus money, we will continue to tackle our streets, one at a time, as funds become available.

Would Stimulus projects generate employment in the Village of Justice?

President Wasowicz answered that all municipal projects are bound by strict criteria mandating public bids and prevailing wages.

Yes, jobs will be created but through a domino effect, not necessarily in our own backyard.

Cheryl Schwartz asked if plans to reconstruct Frontage Rd. include the east side of Oak Grove.

President Wasowicz said, no, that the centerline of Oak Grove is the boundary for the work to be performed.

Ms. Schwartz also stated that the sidewalks on Oak Grove need cleaning after the winter. There is asphalt on them from the plow-season.

We will be using SWAP for general cleaning and maintenance.

Ms. Karen Kintz reported that there are leaves and debris blocking the sewer covers by the curbs in front of Why Not that need to be cleared.

A note was made to clear the debris.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To Adjourn.

MOTION: Trustee McGee so MOVES:

SECOND: Trustee Gabrys
VOICE VOTE: All ayes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Svoboda
Village Clerk/Collector