

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

Minutes of Monday, March 9, 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 Wasowicz, Trustees: Michael Murray, Jim Gabrys, Ed Jurgel, Mary McGee, Rich Berkowicz and Jeff Kranig. 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 February 23, 2009 Regular Board Meeting as corrected.

It was noted that the minutes as presented reflected that Dan McGee of McGee Woodworking created the medallion for the Village Sign and Mike Ohland of Ohland Signs constructed the sign. Their roles were reversed. Ohland created the medallion and McGee constructed the sign.

MOTION: Trustee Murray so Moves:

SECOND: Trustee McGee

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

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mayor Kris Wasowicz announced that a Public Hearing will be held to consider the approval of the proposed Redevelopment Plan and to review the Redevelopment Project Area for TIF 3, consisting of the territory generally bounded by Cork Avenue, Archer Avenue, and Interstate 294, will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the 23rd of March, 2009 at Justice Village Hall, 7800 South Archer Road, Justice, Illinois. All those interested are invited to attend.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT:

Village Clerk Kathy Svoboda reported that more than 100 seniors signed up for the Spring Senior Luncheon to be held at the Wm. O. Lipinski Community Center on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 11:30 am. We will feature corned beef and cabbage, chicken and roast pork and will have surprise entertainment.

Feedback regarding our new sewer and refuse billing format has been excellent. Many residents called to say how nice it was to finally see a newsletter from the village.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE AND INSURANCE: - Trustee Mary McGee

MOTION: To approve payables numbers 1-39, in the amount of \$34,122.07, posted for the period of 02/18/2009 – 03/03/2009, plus re-occurring expenses of \$42,329.08, TIF #1 expenses of \$2,723.89, TIF #2 expenses of \$2,365.75 and MFT expenses of \$13,497.92, for a total of \$95,038.71

SECOND: Trustee Berkowicz

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

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Trustee Gabrys

Trustee Jim Gabrys stated that public works has been busy with weather related issues. We have been doing cold-patching but will need to make more permanent repairs when the asphalt plants open for hot-patch.

We have been readying our equipment for spring. Working on the lawn mowers, trimmers and such.

Our salt allocation was not expended and we have been trying to find a site to store salt at this year's favorable price for the next winter season.

We will be talking about the summer jobs program, considering taking on some students to perform mowing and light maintenance projects around town.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Trustee Mike Murray

Trustee Murray reported that Chief Gedville and Chief Vollinger of RPPFD are working on an intergovernmental agreement for Justice Police Department to provide radio dispatch services to the fire protection district.

Trustee Murray was hoping to have an agreement this evening but the final details are still being worked out.

The Bridgeview/Justice EMA is sponsoring a Severe Weather Seminar at Toyota Park at 7:00 pm on March 11, 2009. All those interested are invited to attend.

We have taken delivery on two, new Crown Victoria squad cars and a grant application was submitted in hope of being awarded funding for one additional car.

We are pleased to present our new flat panel television and monitor in the courtroom. This equipment was purchased at no cost to our residents with asset forfeiture funds in readiness for the red light enforcement program.

Chief Gedville will attend a 40-hour, new chief's orientation program in Springfield this coming week at the Illinois Law Enforcement Institute.

Trustee Murray has consulted with the Police Department and a policy of strict enforcement of barricades in the case of severe flooding has been issued.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING & RECREATION – Trustee Ed Jurgel

Trustee Ed Jurgel stated that some of the entertainment for the Fest has been booked. We will again enjoy the music of Caliente on Friday, Five Guys Named Moe on Saturday and we are negotiating with Aura for Sunday. Trustee Jurgel thanked Mike Murray for his help with the booking of the entertainment.

ORDINANCES, LICENSES & PUBLIC PRINTING – Trustee Rich Berkowicz

MOTION: Trustee Berkowicz Moves: To approve the business License of American Family Insurance, doing business at 8424 S. 88th Ave. in Justice, having passed all inspections and being in compliance with all codes and ordinances.

SECOND: Trustee Jurgel

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

MOTION: Trustee Berkowicz Moves: To approve Ordinance 2009-05, contingent upon final review by the attorney, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 BUSINESS REGULATIONS, ARTICLE I GENERAL, SECTION 3-6 FEES; SECTION 3-7(a) TERMINATION OF LICENSES; SECTION 3-36 DEFINITION, REVOCABLE USE; SECTION 3-63 INSPECTION FEES; SECTION 13-1 RATES AND FEES; AND BY ADDING SECTION 3-18 BUSINESS RENTAL/LEASE AGREEMENTS SECTION 3-38(4)(a) PERMITTED USES OF THE VILLAGE CODE FOR THE VILLAGE OF JUSTICE, COOK COUNTY ILLINOIS.

SECOND: Trustee McGee

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

BUILDING, PLATS AND ZONING – Trustee Jeff Kranig

MOTION: Trustee Kranig Moves: To approve Ordinance 2009-06, contingent upon final review by the attorney, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 BUSINESS REGULATIONS, ARTICLE XIII MOBILE HOMES AND MOBILE HOME PARKS, SECTION 3- 414(10) OPERATING REQUIREMENTS; AND CHAPTER 12 ZONING, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2, SECTION 12-46.3(10) OF THE VILLAGE CODE FOR THE VILLAGE OF JUSTICE, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SECOND: Trustee Berkowicz

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

The Building Department has started a program where the inspectors are driving the village streets looking for vacant homes. Three more were found during a recent inspection in Roberts Park and the Highlands, bring our total to 65. We are hoping to hire summer crews to perform regular grass cutting and simple landscape maintenance on these properties. We will bill the expense back to the agency responsible for the property.

There is severe weather in the forecast. All those who can make the time should try to attend the severe weather presentation by the Bridgeview/Justice EMA at Toyota Park this week. We need to be better prepared for emergencies. Check your flashlights for batteries and portable radios in case of severe weather. Listen for the tornado siren.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY:

Attorney Gadola had no report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk Svoboda read correspondence from Danielle Butts, the Director of the Child Advocacy Center, thanking Trustee Kranig and the Village for the donation of toys to the children served by the center, victims of childhood sexual abuse.

We are also in receipt of a letter from the Illinois Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor looking for volunteers to serve as receptionists for the Civic Center and Visitors Bureau.

Trustee Berkowicz read a thank you note from Dr. Jon Nebor of School District 109 for the Vehicle Sticker Design Contest. Dr. Nebor complimented the program and assured us that the District is glad to participate. The children truly enjoy the contest.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Committee Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm. and follow consecutively
Wednesday, March 18, 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 Miserow Financial.

BUILDING, PLATS & ZONING: Any matters before the committee, in particular, discussion with Cardinal Outdoor regarding electronic billboards.

ORDINANCES, LICENSES & PUBLIC PRINTING: Any new business licenses or ordinances available for review, in particular, legislation to amend village code regarding business regulations.

ADMINISTRATION & RECREATION: Update regarding plans for the Fest, especially the proposed entertainment. Possible **Closed Session** for the discussion of appointment, employment, discipline, compensation or performance of one or more classes of employees.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Continued discussion regarding emergency dispatch operations.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. John Small asked where the \$4,000,000.00 that was promised by this board that was earmarked for this village.

Mayor Wasowicz replied that the wheels of government turn slowly. We have just received \$100,000.00 grant from Homeland Security through Congressman Lipinski's office. We were in contact, today, with the Congressman's Washington office answering some questions regarding two other projects we have applied for funding for. The projects in question were the reconstruction of Frontage Rd. and the reconstruction of 85th Ave. from 79th to the Toll way. We may redirect the request for Frontage Road in view of possible TIF 3 funding for the work.

We have requests for funding on the Transportation bill and we have submitted projects under the Obama Stimulus package.

This year, we have plans to do two street projects, 84th Ct. and 85th Ave.

We are anticipating some funding from the Capital Bill once our legislators follow through with the processes.

Treasurer Rusch asked what will occur if the TIF 3 Hearing, scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, March 23rd, runs longer than anticipated and the Board Meeting must be delayed.

Mayor Wasowicz stated that the Board Meeting will follow the TIF Hearing. If necessary, the start will be delayed.

Mr. Mike Turzak asked about the flooding around the Covington Pond. Are we planning on having sand bags available in the event of another big rain?

Mayor Wasowicz stated that original engineering for the Covington Project required a deeper pond that would hold more water effectively improving drainage in the area, but what was later designed by Burke Engineering, a firm from the north side who did not understand the peculiarities of our topography, only dealt with the Covington Project itself and did not have any residual effect on the area.

Mayor Wasowicz reviewed the history from the 500 year rain that occurred in 1992. At that time grant funds were promised to contribute to a project that would have put a tube down Cork Ave. to the 71st Street Ditch. Trustee Kranig added that we had funding of at least \$678,000.00 but when Governor's changed, the grant was cancelled.

This administration has revived the original engineering done by Hoeffler/Butler and has renewed the grant application for this very project.

Mayor Wasowicz stated that a lot of growth over the last 20 or 25 years without proper storage for displaced storm water created our problems. Since his administration, we are becoming proactive, staging sandbags and trying to be ready when flood conditions threaten.

Mr. Ray Hodson asked how much money is available for matching funds for potential grants.

Mayor Wasowicz replied that we have a small surplus available, but if grants are awarded that require more in matching funds that we have, we will borrow if it becomes necessary.

Mr. Ray Hodson asked how much the newsletter cost the taxpayers. Mayor Wasowicz stated that we budgeted for the newsletter for 2009. It was combined with a plan to improve the sewer and refuse bills to a compliant, letter format, protecting the personal information of our residents from the postcard format. The additional cost was about \$1,200.00 over the cost of printing the bills for printing the newsletter, and we mailed about 400 additional newsletters at around \$170.00 for postage to some residents that don't get individual bills.

We are planning to offset the cost of printing the newsletter with advertising from our businesses.

Mrs. Cookie Gaskin asked if we were going to sandbag before a rainfall. Mayor Wasowicz said absolutely. Sandbags and barricades will be installed before flood conditions exist. Either with the forecast or the early rain indicators.

Mrs. Gaskin asked when the apartment complexes were going to be inspected for fire safety compliance. Trustee Murray stated that they were indeed inspected in October.

Mrs. Gaskin asked how old is a Senior for the purpose of a Senior Luncheon ticket.

Clerk Svoboda stated that all Justice Senior Club Members are eligible, and although the strict criteria for a senior is 62 years of age for a senior discount, she normally lets the resident determine if they are comfortable with the classification.

Mrs. Pat Borst reported that there is a sink hole at 79th Ct. and 86th Street. We will have Public Works take a look at it. We may need to wait until it dries a little more.

Mrs. Brenda Egas asked where the Street Condition Priority Map was. Trustee Kranig stated that it was in the hallway, outside the courtroom.

Mr. Joe Egas stated that he agrees that the newsletter is political. He thinks that public perception will agree with him.

Mayor Wasowicz states that at no time does anyone ask for a vote and any newsletter from a community would include a letter from the desk of the Mayor.

Ms. Barbara Stimatz stated that she has still had no relief from the flood issues at the boundary of her property and the Amelia Court Condos.

The Mayor replied that since we first tried to commence a project on the association property and were stopped, they have not come to the table to discuss our plans to improve that area. We will have our legal department write a letter asking to meet with the Amelia Court board so we may proceed to address this issue.

Mr. Jim Rinkus asked if there was any movement on a second entrance into the Laurels.

We are working with the County, but Cook County feels that the one entrance is sufficient. You will notice that some pedestrian openings have been added.

Mrs. Brenda Egas asked what to do if the 71st Street Ditch overflows it's banks. Trustee Gabrys may be reached by cell phone or call the Mayor.

We will look at cleaning out the secondary ditch the should act as an overflow.

Hoeffler/Butler Engineering is working with Public Works to develop a maintenance schedule that will prioritize regular maintenance of ditches, culverts and ponds for optimum protection from flooding.

Trustee Kranig added that residents should keep their culverts clean of grass clipping, leaves and debris. If you are unable to clean out your culvert, call us and we will get it done.

The Chair will entertain a Motion: To Adjourn.

MOTION: Trustee Jurgel so MOVES:

SECOND: Trustee Berkowicz

VOICE VOTE: All ayes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen M. Svoboda
Village Clerk/Collector