

VILLAGE OF HINCKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING - MINUTES
August 9, 2021
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL BOARD MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Interim Village President Lou Manivong at 7:21 PM. Roll call was taken showing the following:

Present: Trustees Sarah Quirk, Michele Greene-Larsen, Russell Kula, Walter Rainford, Lou Manivong, and Mike Constant. Quorum Established.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Clerk Elizabeth Losiniecki, Deputy Clerk Kathy Michaels, Chief Gettemy, Treasurer Maroo, Chris Ott (EEI), Attorney Tait Lundgren (via phone), Ceneca Wagner, Dale Youngers, Bob Pritchard, Rebecca Von Drasek and Members of the Public.

PUBLIC COMMENT on Agenda Items Scheduled for Action Only

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Approval of Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from 07/19/21.

Trustee Greene-Larsen moved to approve the minutes from July 19, 2021, and Trustee Kula seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Greene-Larsen-Aye, Quirk-Aye, Manivong-Aye, Kula-Aye, Rainford-Aye, Constant-Aye. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Discussion and Recommendation Interim President Manivong brought up the possibility of dedicating a roadway in memory of Joe Diedrich. He was a pillar to the community. He also said it is too soon to do anything yet but would like input and thoughts going forward. Dale Youngers agreed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel

No report.

Finance & Economic Development

° **Discussion and Recommendation** *regarding* Surplus Vehicles

Ceneca Wagner stated that older vehicles need to be retired, which includes the leaf vac and L8000 5 Ton truck. These could go to auction since they still run. The F450 Ford does not run and would need to be towed and/or sold for parts. Wagner stated that several residents have inquired about the L8000. In the past, surplus vehicles have been parked on the corner of RT30 with solicitation for sealed bids. Manivong asked Attorney Lundgren how we need to proceed. Lundgren stated the statute only requires the municipality to get reasonable estimated value. The Village President has the authority to dispose of surplus items with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees. Manivong suggested using govbid, which has been used in the past to auction surplus vehicles.

Trustee Constant brought up the leaf vac and Manivong stated that last year the Village did not provide leaf pick-up service. Lakeshore Recycling (LRS) picked up bagged leaves as part of the waste

collection contract. Residents were also given the option to take leaves to the Public Works facility. Manivong stated that he would like to get rid of the leaf vac. Constant suggested doing the same as last year, including the use of dumpsters for the end of season, after LRS stops picking up. Trustee Quirk stated that residents in the old section of town are upset that leaf pick-up has been discontinued. She suggested amending the leaf burning ordinance to allow for burning three days per week. Ceneca Wagner stated that leaf burning was allowed a few years ago, on assigned days, but residents did not follow the rules. Manivong suggested reaching out to other communities that have a leaf vac to see if we could borrow it or pay them to pick up for us. Constant stated that there is a company in Geneva that provides such service. Rainford will follow up. Manivong stated that a decision regarding leaf pick up will be delayed but the auction of surplus vehicles will proceed and will be on the next agenda for approval.

Constant stated the following:

There was a Planning Commission meeting last week and they are discussing revising the Comprehensive Plan. This was last updated in 2003. The focus will be on economic development. It may be possible to get a grant to cover some of the associated expense. He suggests working with the NIU Center for Governmental Studies (CGS), if possible. He also stated that the Planning Commission is working on identifying vacant commercial buildings in town to try to encourage/assist owners with occupancy. Two vacant properties have recently sold. The (former) Hinckley Florist was purchased by 5-B's BBQ.

Constant expressed condolences to the Badal family for the recent passing of Michele Badal.

Circle Systems also recently sold. New owner is Brad Johnson, owner of Neomek, a 3-D printing company.

Per Jeff Keicher, the water tower grant money bond release was requested. The money should be coming soon.

The federal government released ARPA (American Rescue and Recovery Act) funds. Clerk Losiniecki registered for the funds and the first installment should be released by the end of September. There will be a second payment in 2022.

The Harvesting Our Future mural is getting bigger, and it looks great!

Public Safety

° Discussion and Recommendation regarding Railroad Quiet Zone

Trustee Kula stated that the South View Street crossing will be handled between BNSF and the property owner, Dan Kohler.

Kula discussed packet materials regarding the Quiet Zone. The Village considered this back in 2011. The estimated cost was \$30,000 - \$300,000 for 4 crossings. Chris Ott, Village Engineer, has done quiet zones for other municipalities and described some of the requirements, which included permit requirements, approval process and Federal Railroad Administration review. All aspects of the process will have to be reassessed for current traffic counts, etc. The approval process can take up to nine months. Ott will provide a cost estimate for engineering. The entire process can take between 18-24 months. Quiet zones are becoming more difficult to get approved due to the increase in rail incidents in the zones.

Streets & Alleys

° Discussion and Recommendation *regarding* Leaf Pick-up

This item was discussed during the surplus vehicle agenda item.

Russ Kula asked for an update on the MFT roadwork. Chris Ott stated that notices went out to residents Amie and Prairie View Lane. Work will begin in mid- August. The concrete work will be done first on sidewalks and curbs. Trustee Kula asked if driveways will be accessible, and Ott stated they would not. Notice was given to residents indicating that this would be the case for 5 to 7 days. Roads will be posted for no parking 1 to 2 days prior from 7A-5P.

Trustee Kula brought up the alley and property north of J & K's Half Moon. He spoke with Fire Chief Jay Van Landuyt and Steve Devereaux regarding the width of the alley and accessibility for emergency vehicles. They advised against doing anything to diminish the width of the alley. Kula suggested that the homeowner should install cameras on the garage for surveillance.

Trustee Kula brought the vehicles that are parked around the South Lift Station. He has observed cars being parked for more than 24 hours. This is a safety concern. Dale Youngers stated that he brought this up years ago and the biggest issue is plowing. Thus far, there has been no action taken by Board of Trustees. Youngers has the cell phone number of the business owner in case of emergency. Manivong wants the lot lines marked properly.

Buildings, Grounds & Parks

No report.

Water & Sewer

Dale Youngers stated that he had received good feedback regarding the water tower project. He thanked the Board of Trustees for their assistance and support and trusting his recommendations. There are two outstanding items: the permanent door and grounds restoration. The door is not painted yet and he provided feedback to EEI. Youngers said that the door installation was terrible, and the contractor should not be paid. The frame is not secure, and the lock set is not functional. EEI will contact contractor regarding lock set and \$900.00 invoice that was texted to Youngers. Ground restoration needs to be done. A lot of glass and metal debris remains. Trustee Constant asked about fencing once the restoration is complete. Youngers stated that a large gate would be needed for maintenance vehicle access.

Interim Village President Manivong asked Chris Ott to send out bids for 2 lift stations. Ott stated that construction would probably begin in the spring. ARPA funds can be used for lift stations but not road repairs. Lift station design meeting will be required.

Ott stated pay estimates for the water tower project have not yet been received. He suggested holding 10 percent until next year for reinspection.

OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Maroo spoke as a resident and stated leaf pick up should be a basic service that the Village should provide.

Bob Pritchard announced that Jeff Keicher will be at the Community Building for coffee and discussion on Friday, August 13th from 8a-9a.

ADJOURMENT

Motion: Trustee Quirk moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Trustee Constant seconded the motion. Voice vote: all in favor. Motion carried. The next Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2021, immediately following the Regular Board Meeting.

Louis Manivong, Interim Village President

Kathy Michaels, Deputy Clerk