

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF PHILO, ILLINOIS
January 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Eckert at 7:05 p.m. at the R.E. Franks Meeting Center in the Eileen Painter room.

GUESTS: Christine Walsh, Susan Helmink, Karl Helmink, Greg Crowe, Jim Holz, Bill Bolger, Herschel Hammerschmidt, Rod Schweighart, Paul Hendren, Dave Phillippe and Dave Traxler.

ROLL CALL: Present-Trustees Mumma, Franks, Sappenfield, Piolett, Garrett, and Brady.

MINUTES: Trustee John Mumma made a motion, seconded by Trustee Larry Franks, to approve the minutes of December 14, 2011. Voice vote; all “aye’s,” motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Trustee Larry Franks made a motion, seconded by Trustee Pat Pioletti, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Roll call vote; “aye’s”, Trustees Mumma, Franks, Sappenfield, Pioletti, Garrett and Brady. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT ECKERT: President Eckert suggested, with the Board’s indulgence, to complete the rest of the agenda and return to our guests, Jim Holz and Greg Crowe.

DAVE PHILLIPPE: Dave P. reported that he, Karl Helmink and Dave Happ had a meeting, prior to tonight’s Village Board meeting, to discuss procedures in regard to the resident at 202 South Harrison’s plan to merge two lots. The resident plans to build on to his existing home after tearing down the home on the lot to the south of his lot. Dave sees this as a straightforward plan as it is zoned R-1 and it is a single family dwelling and asked the Board if they had any questions.

Mr. Phillippe also indicated he is ready to close the 2011 Motor Fuel Tax program and will have documents for the Village Clerk to sign.

PAUL HENDREN: Mr. Hendren presented the Intergovernmental Agreement to Intervene in the Illinois American Water Company (IAWC) Rate Increase Proceeding with Champaign, Urbana, St. Joseph, Sidney and Philo. He explained Champaign will be the lead agency and that they have worked with this law firm before. The proposal to join in since Aqua Illinois water comes from Illinois American Water Company. The total expense would cap at \$25,000, with our share being 1.08% of that amount. Paul explained the proceedings will go on whether we join or not. If we wish to do this, we would make a motion that the Village approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Intervention in the rate increase. Trustee John Mumma, so moved, seconded by Trustee Paul Brady. Roll call vote; “aye’s”, Trustees Mumma, Franks, Sappenfield, Pioletti, Garrett and Brady. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul reported that the Post Office transfer is complete and the deed to the Village has been recorded. The insurance company has also been notified. The Rice brothers provided a written

final accounting of income and expenses and presented a check payable to the Village. Mr. Hendren also noted that the taxes need to be prorated yet.

Paul then addressed questions from the Board in regard to cell phones and privacy, as related to recent news articles on the subject. Craig explained that the Village reimburses \$39.99 per month towards his cell phone and pays for Dave Traxler's cell phone. Not all of their conversations are just for Village business. If records were requested, Paul said we would determine what is turned over. Personal conversations would not be considered public. Mr. Hendren did caution to be thoughtful in regard to conversations that may appear to be meetings. He suggested that e-mails or texts should continue to go through Clerk Kirby or Deputy Clerk Helmink. Another point Paul made was if someone wanted copies of text messages, if required, the request would need to be in writing and the Village would have 5 working days to respond.

Mr. Hendren stated the Jackson Street resident issue was turned over to Jim Green and Paul simply did not know the status. Paul will check on this and report to President Eckert. Trustee Franks asked that he do this right away and get going on this.

ROD SCHWEIGHART: Rod presented his Treasurer's Report and commented there are sufficient funds to pay the bills. Rod will review the Real Estate Exemption report. He also said the MFT balances are "right on."

DAVE TRAXLER: Dave T. stated the last Christmas tree pick-up will be this coming Monday. The holiday decorations have been taken down. He also noted that the snow plow equipment and drivers are ready.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Village will stay on top of the Emerald Ash Bore problem.

Trustee Pioletti reported a positive trend in saving money on the lighting at the REFMC and stated this item can be taken off the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Susan presented the REFMC report. She suggested the building committee get together to discuss the survey.

Trustee Pioletti said he was asked by Luke and Leslie Kirby to find out if there would be support from the Board if they decided to do an evening event connected with the Run4Raley event. They have had a run/walk for the past 4 years held on the first Saturday of August. They are thinking about booking the band, Brat Pack, and need to know if there would be any objections by the Village or if the Board would have any concerns. Trustee Sappenfield's only concern was that it would be a private, not public, benefit. President Eckert said he would be supportive and suggested offering Dave Traxler's time and the police protection, like we have done for other events. Resident Alta Tarter stated the liability, if alcohol is served, would be their responsibility. Her other concern was if there would be enough support to pay the band. Trustee

Franks said it would be good to make money, but not the Village's concern if they would make money or not. Craig noted the last band event made over \$400, but was a lot of work. Trustee Pioletti added there is advice from problems last year, it is precedent setting and these events are good for the community. President Eckert sensed the Board is not against them expanding the event and would welcome Luke and Leslie Kirby, if they want to present more information. Trustee Pioletti indicated he would relay the Boards spirit of support to the Kirby's.

JIM HOLZ & GREG CROWE: President Eckert stated that Jim Holz is attempting to guide us in regard to a Comprehensive Plan for the Village. Craig understands the cost concerns of Trustee Franks and also thanked Trustee Pioletti's suggestion to reach out to a University of Illinois contact. The \$25/35,000 price is quite a sticker shock.

Jim Holz introduced Greg Crowe, a former Decatur City Planner, and indicated we could be invoiced if we decide to proceed. Mr. Holz said this type of project is typically \$30,000, but they can work to reduce costs by having interns or graduate students complete part of the work. They would prefer not to cut the scope, but keep price down to provide usable information. Trustee Brady commented that this strikes him that the community needs to know what they want, have a goal and then HDC/MSA helps them obtain the goal. He doesn't believe the 7 people sitting on the Board know what they want. Mr. Holz said part of the process is visioning, which he said we have partially completed by doing the survey. Trustee Pioletti voiced concern about the selection of the consultant. Attorney Hendren indicated he felt the Village's prior relationship with our engineer could allow the exception to state statutes. Trustee Franks said he is still struggling with the cost and the fact we had the prior "plan" for over 20 years and nobody had looked at it until about a year ago. It's frustrating because even if we do this (Comprehensive Plan) it may lay on a shelf. Larry said he's been around the block and is not agreeable to it. He's for the Village "digging in their heels" and doing it themselves. Greg Crowe said another part of the plan is the implementation stage. The Board has to take control, ownership of plan, which includes the vision and priorities. Trustee Franks said excellent work was done on the survey, adding if we can't work at the committee level, then we can't commit to a plan. President Eckert said we all have jobs and families, is it being realistic that we can do this. Trustee Franks said it is a good idea; the Village isn't flush with money and suggested we take small steps. Trustee Pioletti believes there is interest, but we don't have a firm idea of what dollar amount to spend. The Village hasn't had growth but feels we should have a useful plan. Trustee Garrett doesn't want to spend any money. Trustee Sappenfield is concerned about community involvement. Deputy Clerk Helmink wondered if we can do more in regard to the completed survey. She voiced concern about using interns. Trustee Mumma added you only get what you pay for. Trustee Franks said the Board members need to do the work and have an advisor to keep us on track. Jim Holz suggested calling that our strategic plan and include maps, etc. President Eckert suggested each Trustee list their top 5 priorities and indicate how much time they would be willing to commit to the project. Trustee Pioletti suggested they need a specific place and time to meet.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION:

Paul Brady-Nothing

Rachael Garrett-Nothing

Pat Pioletti-R.J. Daly asked him to ask the Board if they saw his new awning and to mention R.J. thought it would be a good idea for every business on main street to have one.

Pat also spoke of Sibley's quaint Christmas tradition of providing every child in the town a gift. He wanted to ask if the Village did something like this, if the gym space would be available for caroling, Santa, etc.

Judy Kirby-Nothing

Steve Sappenfield-Nothing

Larry Franks-Nothing

John Mumma-Nothing

Craig Eckert- Craig said he will provide attorney Hendren with the information he needs to send a letter to the resident with chickens.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Trustee Franks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Steve Sappenfield. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

VILLAGE CLERK

VILLAGE PRESIDENT