

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

REGULAR MEETING 6 P.M.

Regular meeting of the Village Board held at the Village Hall and called to order by President Starceвич with the following members present: Loving, Olson, Sappington, Willems, Baker, Waugaman, Starceвич, Johnson. Absent: none.

Motion by Sappington, second by Olson to approve the January 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried. (Note: the I-Pad does not connect)

Motion by Willems, second by Baker to authorize the January 2024 bills. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

James LaCamera present concerning the properties at 300 South Fourth Avenue and 403 State Street being in disrepair. Mr. Farwell, his contractor, also present. President Starceвич stated that the Village is aware of the condition of the two properties, and have been trying to contact the owners. Trustee Sappington stated he had cleaned up some of the property at 300 South Fourth Avenue, but nothing has been done since then. Mr. LaCamera stated that he lives next door to the property, and has tried to buy it. President Starceвич stated he would try to contact the owner to put some pressure on him. Mr. LaCamera stated that it is not hooked up to the sewer, and he shared a septic a septic with the property. He said he wants the property to tear down due to is condition, and he has a bid from Tommy Whiting to put in the sewer.

President Starceвич stated that the Mercer County Health Department does not do anything about houses that are falling apart, but Sterling, Illinois has a way to take down and demo houses that are in poor condition. The Board agreed to contact Sterling about their policy.

Mr. Farwell offered the Village \$400 to purchase the old blade owned by the Village.

Motion by Willems, Second by Sappington to sell the old blade from the maintenance department to Justin Fowler for \$400. The Village Clerk Johnson stated she would make a resolution to that fact.

Mr. LaCamera reported to the Board that the house that burned down that he owned still needs more clean up, but he is waiting on insurance.

President Starceвич stated that the fiber optic is still going in.

President Starceвич stated that the Board needs to decide on the Village's roads as to what should be done.

President Starceovich reported that he had talked to Lynn Armstrong of the USDA about the final sewer payment, and she said that \$3,000 would be reimbursed to the Village along with the final payment to Langman Construction.

President Starceovich reported that the water meters are going in, and treasurer Willems told him that water rates will need to be raised.

Stephen Thorp stated that someone from the software for the meters will be coming out to meet with him around the 15th or 16th so that the Village could have meter readings.

President Starceovich reported that Kevin Willems is doing the new sign in the Depot Park, and will update it with information. President Starceovich said that the Board needs to set deadlines for what is on the sign a month in advance.

Trustee Waugaman reported that the Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, March 24th at 1 P.M. at the Rodeo Park, and the rain date would be Saturday March 30th.

Allison Kallenbach contacted President Starceovich about the Ball Park and baseball teams. He said that Trevor Duyvejonk and Bryce Frenell are in charge of the program, and have a nine and under team and a T-Ball team.

Trustee Sappington stated that the preschool Time for Tots has found another teacher to take over, because Debbie Willems is retiring, but they are short on funds, and needed to meet the fire code with three ways out.

The new gas station owner has new hours and wants to have new hours to sell package liquor. The Board stated it did not know his hours.

Motion by Willems, second by Olson to set the gas station/convenience store hours at 6 A.M. to 11 P.M. weekdays and Saturdays to sell package liquor, and Sundays would be starting at 12 Noon. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Willems, second

by Sappington to reimburse Stephen Thorp \$387 for his health insurance (Well Better Illinois each month). Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Willems, second by Baker to adjourn. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Claudine D. Johnson, Village Clerk

