

AUGUST 5, 2024

REGULAR MEETING 6 P.M.

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

President Starcevich announced the resignations of Trustee Sappington and Trustee Willems.

Motion by Baker, second by Olson to accept the July 1, 2024 Public Hearing on the Budget and the regular meeting. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Olson, second by Baker to authorize July 2024 bills. Voice votes: All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Village Clerk Johnson swore in Tyler Whiting as Trustee to take Pam Waugaman's place on the Board. Mr. Whiting was nominated and accepted at the July 1, 2024 regular meeting.

Motion by Loving, second by Baker to adopt Ordinance Number Two, 2024, the FY 2024 2025 Tax Levy Ordinance. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Mr. & Mrs. Rich Werkheiser present to request that the alley behind the Presbyterian Church and C.E. Building have the fire lane painted yellow. The Board agreed to have the maintenance department paint the fire lane yellow.

Mr. & Mrs. Werkheiser also reported that Tom Miller is mowing the property owned by Alan Celada, but there is still a lot of debris in the yard from the house fire. President Starcevich stated that the house is to be condemned and a letter will be sent to Mr. Celada.

Russell Robb present as a Rivoli Township Trustee and informed the Board about the proposed new Fire Station to be built on the large lot on south Main Street. He stated that there will be five bays and a township hall in the building with a setback of eighteen feet from Highway Illinois 17. He presented a design of the station and said that the Township is trying to buy the land behind where the fire Station will be from the Hillsdale Elevator. He also stated that the fire trucks will exit out on South Fourth Avenue. He said the design shows two restrooms, offices, and a meeting room, and estimates eighteen months to complete, hopefully for the 2025 Christmas Walk. The proposal will be on the next ballot. Trustee Olson stated he would contact John Carlson, Zoning Board Chairman, about the proposed fire station.

President Starcevich reported that every day there is speeding going on and stop signs gone through and a request was made to slow traffic down on Eleventh Avenue so the Board had four speed bumps and stop signs put in. He then said that there have been many complaints about the speed bumps. Scott Frenell, Fire Chief, present with concerns about the fire truck going over the speed bumps. Also, President Starcevich stated that people were driving on yards to avoid the speed bumps, and a yard had spikes placed on it to stop people driving on their yard. Trustee Whiting

stated that the stop signs are up, but that the speed bumps were not legal. Troy Galvin present and complained of wrecking his equipment such as tractors and trucks going over the speed bumps because he lives in the country and comes into the Village by Eleventh Avenue, and he stated that the Village would be liable for damage since the speed bumps are not legal. Fire Chief Frenell said the ambulance and handicap vans would also be affected. President Starceвич stated that the Village had to do something to slow the traffic down on Eleventh Avenue. Trustee Olson said the speed bumps were to be temporary, and would be removed for the snow plow. Police Chief Bryce Frenell stated that the state regulates the stop signs at thirty inches, and he has watched Eleventh Avenue with people flying down the street. President Starceвич and the Board agreed to remove the speed bumps, but asked citizens to slow down and stop at the stop signs, and the Village's stop signs are legal.

Cory Humphrey present to ask for a stop sign at his corner of Seventh Avenue and Sycamore Street, because there is a special needs child living in that area. The Board agreed to look at stop sign there and Mercer Street and Eleventh Avenue.

Brandon Phillips present and lives at the corner of 1117 Franklin Street and is concerned with the people speeding on Eleventh Avenue. He said he wants something done about it, since he has children playing in the yard.

Fire Chief Frenell asked that the weather siren not be set off if there is a storm on a Tuesday at 7 P.M. The Board agreed to not test the weather siren on Tuesdays if there is a storm.

President Starceвич reported that there are two Trustee positions vacant. The Board tabled filling these seats until the next meeting.

President Starceвич stated that Stephen Thorp is resigning as maintenance superintendent, zoning officer, and sewer assistant, water assistant, and the Village needs a replacement for him. Also, he said that Mr. Thorp would be gone starting August 13, 2024 to visit family in Washington.

Stephen Thorp present and reported that there are enough water meters for half of the Village, and these new meters use the I-Pad for automatic readings with ten or twelve smart meters. President Starceвич stated that the Village is losing revenue by not having actual meter readings to bill customers, and the Village will need to find someone to install and read water meters.

The Board agreed to not stop Stephen Thorp's health insurance reimbursement until he resigns.

President Starceвич stated that Viola and Matherville use two officers to do part time police duty at each Village, and they both had gone to the academy.

President Starceвич stated that Justin Fowler is taking down the house at the corner of South Fourth Avenue and State Street.

Motion by Whiting, and second by Baker to send a letter to Alan Celada and Fred Vann condemning their houses.

President Starceovich stated he would send a letter out to the residents not hooked up to the sewer giving them thirty days to have a sewer put in or a contract to have a sewer put it, or their water would be shut off.

The Board noted that Clean Up Day is Saturday, August 10, 2024 at the maintenance building from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. or until the dumpsters are filled up. Mr. Thorp stated that there will be two dumpsters.

Police Chief Bryce Frenell reported that the Rodeo Association pays four guys for policing the fairgrounds, and he has three lined up and Officer Davis, and a state trooper to help with the parade, and he will handle the Village.

Chief Bryce Frenell said that he was going to have the new squad detailed, and the owner of the detail shop said he would do it for free.

The Board noted that Logan Ericson may have a party in his building after the Rodeo.

Chief Bryce Frenell reported that Mercer County Better Together would sponsor the Mercer County Co-ed softball tournament, and there would be food available, and beer through Brenda Marshall and the Depot under her liquor license.

Motion by Whiting, second by Olson to donate \$100 to Nourish to Flourish program. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

The Board agreed to change the water/sewer billing due date to the third of the month, since some people do not get their checks in time now to pay.

Village Clerk Johnson stated that the September meeting would be the second Monday, September 9, 2024 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Police Chief Bryce Frenell gave information on the police department and said that the Village needs a laser radar at \$2,700. The Board tabled this matter.

He also stated that Officer Davis needs a vest at \$350 that Officer Davis would pay the Village, then the Village would pay Mercer County, and reimburse Officer Davis after six months.

Motion by Loving, second by Whiting to get Officer Davis into a class on Taser, and to get him a can of pepper spray and holder. Voice votes, all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

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

Claudine D. Johnson, Village Clerk