

JULY 10, 2023

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, Sappington, Baker, Starcevich, and Johnson. Absent were: Willems and Waugaman (phone).

Motion by Baker, second by Sappington to approve the June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes and the Closed Session minutes with correction of number of sewer hook ups left to read 46 +/- not 20. Voice votes: all votes in favor, and the motion carried.

Motion by Baker, second by Olson to authorize the June 2023 bills. Voice votes: all votes in favor, motion carried.

Christine Kotaska present to report that the Village's Police Department did not come when she called, and her FOIA request was not answered, but that Village Attorney Halpin sent her a letter stating the request was not reliable. She stated she tried to put in another request for FOIA on a police report, but received no reply, and she had called the police again for help when the kids in the Jr. High apartments harassed her and her children. She stated that she talked to the mother of these kids, but she said that her kids were okay. Also, she stated that at the bus stop her daughter was shot with an air gun, and these kids were shoving other kids, and using foul language. She said that since she is the only adult at the bus stop, she told the kids to behave. She then reported that one kid swung a baseball bat towards her and her children, and she called the police. She said that she called Mercer County Sheriff's Department because the New Windsor Police would not respond, and there had been screaming and yelling over at the apartments. She stated that she wanted her children to be safe, and not be stalked, or shot with a BB gun. Ms. Kotaska said she called the State's Attorney about the FOIA, but she did nothing. She just wants the FOIA for the police report from Chief Frenell for court, but claimed that Chief Frenell was unprofessional and did not believe her. President Starcevich said he understood about protecting her children.

Ms. Kotaska asked about the building permit for her fence, and was told that it was not in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, because it was too high, not see through, and on the property line. She stated the fence is only 70% in size by her garage. Zoning Officer Thorpe said he and former Zoning Officer Keller, and Zoning Board Chairman Carlson went to look at the fence, and told her that it was not in compliance, and it would have to come down. President Starcevich stated he would have Village Attorney Halpin call her about the matter.

President Starcevich reported that Marla Whiting had complained about Bo Jangles Detail Shop leaving a light on at night and playing loud music during the day. The Board did not see a problem.

President Starceвич stated that Black Hawk Electric had put up lights at the Rodeo Park and would give an estimate on security lights for the Village.

Mr. Thorp stated that the speed limit signs were in.

President Starceвич stated that the Village would start August 1, 2023 with the \$800 fee for sewer hookup, and if not done by August 15, 2023, the resident's water would be shut off. The Board agreed to table this until next month.

The former Cynthia Peer house at 204 North Fourth Avenue had been bought, and Trustee Sappington stated that he was helping the owner clean up the siding and porch.

Zoning Officer Thorp said that a building permit is required for solar panels on homes.

President Starceвич reported on the litigation and mediation with Langman Construction, and the problems with Lynn Armstrong on the payment agreed upon at the mediation.

Motion by Sappington, second by Baker to borrow \$100,000 from the Farmers State Bank of Western Illinois to help pay the \$196,181.53 due to Langman Construction through the mediation at a 5% interest rate and fifteen years repayment with one annual payment. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Starceвич stated he would contact Lynn Armstrong of the USDA on the payment and account. The Board agreed to have the money put in the General Fund at this time. The total payment is \$196,181.53 to Langman Construction by July 17, 2023.

Mr. Thorp stated that he did not want to be Zoning Officer, two trees needed to come down at Walnut and Second Avenue and 809 Franklin Street. Trustee Sappington stated that Ameren may take down the tree on Franklin Street.

Mr. Thorp asked about doing sidewalk construction, and how much funding is available. The Board tabled the matter.

Motion by Baker, second by Olson to donate \$5,000 to the New Windsor Depot Park Improvement for an electric sign. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Trustee Olson stated that he would like to see the Police Department do more police duty.

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

Claudine D. Johnson, Village clerk