

January 9th, 2018

Village of Rapids City
Rock Island County, Illinois

This Regular Board meeting was called to order by President Mire at 7:00p.m.
All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present: Clark, Fiems, Fowler, Mire Rankin, Schneider
Absent: Robertson

Also Present: Missy Housenga-Clerk, Ben Barber-Treasurer, Attorney Nick Mason, Chief Terry Engle, and Sarah Ford.

A quorum was established.

CONSENT "Omnibus" Agenda: Fiems motioned to approve 12/12/2017 Personnel and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, 12/12/17 Regular Board Meeting minutes, 12/2017 Treasurer's Report presented by Barber, 01/2018 Monthly bills, Rankin seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: Scott Searl of Strada Communications introduced himself as well as his business partner Tom Bussert. Searl briefed the Board about plans to bringing Fiber Optics to the area providing internet service to local schools, businesses and residents. Searl explained to the Board of a location within Rapids City that would be ideal for a home base for business operations, servers and routers. Searl asked for permission from the Board to utilize easement right-aways for installing lines to make delivery of service possible. A build out design of project would be provided. Attorney Mason reviewed the current franchise agreement to verify there would be no infringement with MediaCom; further more there would be no loss of revenue from MediaCom as the franchise payouts are for cable TV or video services only. Per Searl, Strada Communications is authorized to provide fiber optic internet by the Illinois Commerce Commission throughout the state of Illinois. Through discussion it was identified the details of what fiber optic service can provide and where service would originate from. Concerns were expressed by the Board that our easements are for public utilities and are to be used as such. Searl verified Strada is a private corporation providing private fiber optic broadband service and not considered a public utility. Attorney Mason will research the legal side of using the Village's utility easements and legal definition of fiber optic service. Strada Communications would not be signing a franchise agreement with the Village of Rapids City. Strada would provide a written guarantee of upload and download speeds to be provided by them. There would be no expense to the Village or its residents to install lines providing the fiber optic service. Searl would like to see ground breaking start for this project as of March, beginning with a purchase of the building to house the operation. The Village of Port Byron has already granted easement access to Strada. Strada has also agreed to indemnify Port Byron if any damages occur while installing their lines and they would do the same for Rapids City. Mire expressed his concerns one being the legality of granting legal rights to public utility easements, curious as to how Port Byron granted access, secondly Mire would like to see new businesses within the Village but would like to get a more detailed layout of the agenda Strada Communications has. Searl explained he only wanted to open the conversation, expressing interest in providing service within the Village and bring the attention of any legal barriers that would prohibit Strada Communications from coming into Rapids City. Searl will gather information for the Board, answering any questions that may have arisen with this conversation. President Mire invited Searl back to any future meetings to discuss further.

PRESIDENT-Mire: On behalf of himself, the Board and the Village, Mire expressed his condolences to Rankin for the loss of his father. Rankin thanked everyone for their thoughtful words.

Mire made note of request from the Department of the Army, Rock Island, seeking members for the Restoration Advisory Board for the US Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal. If anyone on the Board is interested please contact the Department of the Army.

POLICE REPORT - Chief Engle: Report as presented. Schneider inquired about the amount of burglary calls on the report. Chief Engle explained the burglaries were conducted on unlocked cars one evening. There was a burglary at GiLanella's which is currently under investigation. Mire noted posts were made to the Village's Facebook page addressing the issue to warn and safeguard our residents. Mire would like to have the Board spread word about the Facebook page as it is being used as a tool to

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communicate with residents. Chief Engle also thanked the Village again for involvement in the Blue and Red Christmas; there was more child and volunteer involvement this year.

FIRE REPORT- Chief Carey: Report as presented.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Bump: Report as presented. Fowler made note of the great job the department did in clearing the streets and de-icing.

ATTORNEY- G. Lee: No report.

BUILDING, ZONING & Planning – Fiems: Construction and plumbing permit log reviewed by Fiems which included moving of water lines, furnace and electric on new construction.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE - Clark: Evaluations, performance sheets need to be addressed, in means of format and use per Clark. Mire asked the Board if they were opposed to using a formal evaluation form. Fiems expressed he found evaluations became an exercise in futility, no one wants to have them done, no one wants to do them, they are not used to really evaluate anything. Fiems stated an evaluation at the end of a probationary period is required for a new employee or if there are complaints about an individual, it is a good idea to touch base and clarify job duties and requirements of the position. Per Fiems evaluations should be used for something constructive. Schnieder agreed with Fiems. Rankin noted documentation for reasoning for raises or lack thereof is a good idea. Mire suggested adding to the January 16th, 2018 Budget Planning Meeting the discussion of evaluation format. Mire also noted if the Board feels no need for evaluations we just need to change the Employee Handbook.

INFRASTRUCTURE - Rankin: Rankin reported the gas heater in the pump house broke; the heater was originally installed in the 1990's. A replacement cost of \$1150.00 was presented with work to be done by Young's. Fiems motioned to approve the replacement of the heater in the pump house. Schneider seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

ELECTIONS - Mire: None.

PARKS, RECREATIONS & CEMETERY- Robertson: In Robertson's absence Mire brought to attention handouts provided by Robertson giving suggested improvements in three phases to parks and playgrounds within the Village. Mire would like to have the Board review the documentation to discuss at a future meeting. Mire added once again Sulphur Creek Park will be top priority.

ORDINANCE & LICENSES – Schneider: None.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EVENT PLANNING & PUBLIC SAFTEY - Fowler: Fowler explained the Rapids City Youth Committee previously held an Easter Egg Hunt for children. Since there is no longer a Youth Committee Fowler asked the Board if they would like to take up the event. A bunny suit was acquired from the Youth Committee, it will be asked of an older minor to be the bunny. Rankin motioned not to exceed \$150.00 for the purchase of candy filled eggs. Fiems seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

At this time, 7:55pm, Mire announced the Board needed to go into Executive/Closed Session to discuss a legal matter. Fiems motioned to enter into Closed session to discuss legal matters as per Open Meeting Act. Seconded by Rankin. All in attendance voted yes. Motion carries.

At 8:10pm the President and Board of Trustees entered back into Open Session of this Regular Board Meeting.

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Rankin motioned to hold a Liquor Control Commission Hearing for GiLanella's alcohol permit on January 31st, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Fiems seconded. All in attendance voted yes. Motion carries.

Having no further business to conduct at this time, Rankin motioned to adjourn this Regular Board Meeting, Schneider seconded. The motion passed, President Mire adjourned by consensus of the Board at 8:13pm.

Clerk