

August 13th, 2019

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 – Mire, Schnieder, Clark, Fowler, Rankin, Robertson
Absent - Fiems

Also Present – Attorney Mason, p, Clerk Housenga, Chief Perley, Pam Ellis, Tom Cathcart, Sarah Ford, Doug & Colby DeBlaey with their minor children entered late, Public Works Director Bump entered at 7:41pm

A quorum was established.

CONSENT “Omnibus” Agenda: Robertson motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes 07/09/2019, Monthly Bills 08/2019, Treasurers Report 07/2019. Rankin seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: Pam Ellis addressed the Board concerning access to her and her husband’s property located on 18th Street. Ellis has a right-a-way easement agreement with Mr. Holstlaw for use of 18th Street, between BP and the Edge, to access her property. Ellis pointed out the Village also has a sewer easement agreement with Mr. Holstlaw along 18th Street as well. Ellis explained about two months ago Mr. Holstlaw placed a large gravel barrier on 18th Street making it difficult to access her property in which they currently have a tenant living. Ellis’s renter had damage to her vehicle while trying to return home due the gravel. Ellis explained they did smooth out the bump in the gravel. Ellis stated she received a letter from Mr. Holstlaw’s attorney explaining the 16 ton bump was to be replaced. Ellis stated they were not going to replace the gravel as it would impede access to her property. Ellis further explained they contacted the Village to aide with the matter to enforce our portion of the sewer easement agreement with Mr. Holstlaw. Mrs. Ellis was informed the matter was a civil issue and would need to be handled outside of the office. Mrs. Ellis stated she felt the Village’s response to this matter was disrespectful. Ellis has conferred with her attorney and has responded to Mr. Holstlaw’s attorney that they will not be putting back the grave in accordance to their access agreement. Mrs. Ellis has requested all presented documentation on this matter be filed in her and Mr. Holstlaw’s parcel files at Village Hall. Mrs. Ellis also pointed out Mr. Holstlaw placed the gravel on 18th Street to divert water from his property. Attorney Mason clarified with Mrs. Ellis the grave was blocking the entire road not just her driveway, in which she confirmed. Mason and all Board Members reviewed the email received at the Village Office on 07-29-19, Village’s sewer easement with Mr. Holstlaw, the letter from Mr. Holstlaw’s attorney dated 07-19-19, a copy of Title IX, Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 5 of the Rapids City Code of Ordinances. A letter from the Ellis’s attorney to Mr. Holstlaw dated 08-06-19 was presented this evening by Mrs. Ellis. Rankin verified there is no other access to her property other than 18th Street, essentially land locking her property. Ellis just wanted to inform the Village they will not be putting back the gravel, elaborating she felt the Village should have sent correspondence to Holstlaw that he was violating his portion of the sewer easement agreement, as well as you cannot redirect water. Mason noted gravel is not a permanent structure and the Village is not conducting public improvement. Mason explained two other colleagues reviewed the documentation emailed on 07-29-19 and concurred this is not a Village matter. Mire asked the Board if they had any other questions or comments. Schneider has no issues with filing the documents but cautioned everyone about discussing legal matters in a public forum. All documentation will be filed in the appropriate parcel files.

Colby DeBlaey asked the Board to consider a sponsorship to the newly established Raging Rapids, a 10U traveling softball team. DeBlaey intends to be based and practicing in Rapids City. Sponsorship would entail a donation. Discussion took place including development of a policy of requirements for agencies requesting donations. Mire reviewed the 2019/2020 budget items and believes there is room to donate. Clark motioned to donate \$200.00 to the Raging Rapids. Rankin seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

PRESIDENT –Mire: Mire touched base with the Board concerning the push notification system; training will begin 08-15-19. Trustee Fiems created a policy for the notification system for review. Discussion took place about uses for this system, alternative systems and future uses for notifications. At this time the policy was tabled for more clarification from Fiems.

POLICE REPORT – Chief Perley: Report as presented. Car break-ins in Hampton have started up again. Rapids City Residents are doing a wonderful job at protecting their belongings with no break in activities being reported. Perley noted the hands free law Illinois passed has not been addressed in the Code of Ordinance. Hands free tickets as of now will be issued as a state ticket.

ATTORNEY – N. Mason: Nothing to report at this time.

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FIRE REPORT – Chief Carey: Report as presented. An email will be sent to Chief Carey as to what event happened the night of August 6th or 7th since sirens could be heard for several minutes within the Village.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Bump: Report as presented. Mire explained the Hesco barriers are proving very difficult to remove, so far the best way to remove the sand from the barriers is to use a vacuum because of the weight.

BUILDING, ZONING & PLANNING – Fiems: 1 general permit and 1 plumbing permit were issued in July.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE – Clark: Robertson motioned to approve travel expenses not to exceed \$500.00 for the Public Works employees, Bump and Misfeldt, to attend the IRWA Conference October 22nd and 23rd for water license continuing education. Fowler seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

Clark approved to donate \$50.00 to Riverbend Food Bank.

Kelly Becht's 90 day probationary period will be fulfilled on August 20th. Mire noted personnel performance would be discussed in closed session at the end of the meeting.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Rankin: Rankin explained all easement agreements for properties bordering the 14th Street culvert along Sulphur Creek have been received. MSA Professional Services has been notified and will carry out the next steps of the culvert project. Mire reported the Waterloo grant has been executed.

ELECTIONS – Mire: None.

PARKS, RECREATIONS & CEMETERY – Robertson: Robertson reported the Fixit Bicycle Repair Station arrived today. Placement of the equipment will be where the current Schuler's Shady Grove sign is now. The sign will be moved to a location closer to the gazebo. The OSLAD grant has been executed; we're just waiting for further information from our grant manager for our next steps.

ORDINANCE & LICENSES – Schnieder: Smoking and Electronic Cigarettes discussion was table at this time until more information is obtained about the State's upcoming recreational cannabis laws.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EVENT PLANNING & PUBLIC SAFETY – Fowler: Fowler presented the color choice chosen for the skirting under the electronic sign, a grey stone. Fowler reported the contractor could possibly start the project mid to late September. Discussion took place concerning the option to make the stone moveable to another location. It was decided to just make the sign permanent, avoiding additional costs and possible damage.

OLD BUSINESS: Mire brought it to the attention of the Board that Republic Service will pass through costs for the State's fuel tax. Per our contract with Republic Services the pass through charge is allowed. Carbon Cliff reported to us their cost was \$0.07 per resident for garbage pickup and \$0.03 per resident for recycle pickup. Clerk Housenga will be in contact with Republic Services to verify the Village's cost impact. Schneider asked why our garbage complaints have risen in the last month. Housenga explained our normal driver is no longer with the company.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Tom Cathcart addressed the Board to discuss the deterioration of the curb and gutter in front of his home on 17th Street. Bump explained at a previous meeting it was approved to have a portion of the curb and gutter on 17th and 18th Streets to be replaced. The portion of 17th Street to be fixed is in front of Cathcart's home. Bump is just waiting on the contractor to free up to complete the work. Discussion took place about discharge of sump pumps onto city streets to clarify ordinance. Once curb and gutter work is completed water discharged from sump pumps should drain correctly.

Schneider noted he felt all citizens that watched Tug Fest fireworks at the boat dock area conducted themselves in a respectable way, making room for a boater to enter the water.

Schneider brought up the matter of dredging of the dock launch area. Shoaling has taken place along with silting since the flood. Schneider has received complaints as to the amount of shoaling. Schneider once again brought up the idea of adding a no power loading sign near the dock to avoid shoaling. Previous opposition to adding a no power loading ordinance and sign was who was going to enforce it and how. Bump was authorized to scrap the concrete slab to clear some of the shoaling from the dock ramp. Bump will check on the cost of renting a large excavator and permitting for dredging further out in the river. Rankin will call his contacts to see about permitting specifications.

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Clark inquired if FEMA could take care of dredging costs since the silting is more noticeable since the flood. Mire reported cost reimbursements were requested for approximately \$55,700.00 to FEMA this last month. Housenga will check with FEMA/IEMA to see if dredging cost could be covered.

Robertson motioned to enter Executive Session at 8:20pm to discuss Billing Clerk performance and a legal question concerning sump pumps. Rankin seconded. All present board members agreed. Motion carries.

At 8:42pm President Mire resumed the open session of this regular board meeting. Mire noted no votes or action was taken during Executive Session.

With nothing further to be discussed, Schnieder motioned to adjourn this Regular Board Meeting; Rankin seconded. All members of the Board concurred. President Mire adjourned this August 13th, 2019 meeting at 8:42pm.

Clerk