

October 13th, 2020
Village of Rapids City
Rock Island County, Illinois

This Regular Board meeting was called to order by President Mire at 7:00p.m.

Roll Call:

Present – Rankin, Schnieder, Fiems, Clark, Fowler and Robertson

Absent – None.

Others Present – Attorney Nick Mason, Treasurer Barber, Clerk Housenga, Chief Tone, Tim Wendl, Greg Kerner and Public Works Director Ryan Bump.

Others Telephonically Present – James Taylor

A quorum was physically established.

CONSENT “Omnibus” Agenda: Barber noted sales tax collection is down, presumed to be due to COVID-19; building permit sales are up as well as fine collections. Over all there is an increase in all funds this month.

Robertson motioned to approve 09-02-2020 Safety Committee Minutes, 09-08-2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, 10-2020 Monthly Bills and Treasure’s Report presented by Barber 09-2020. Fiems seconded. All board members voted yes, motion carries.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: Mire addressed an email sent by Sara Watson. Mire discussed this matter later in the meeting.

Tim Wendl of Scout Troup 351 requested from the board a discounted rate or no charge rate to hold scout meetings on Mondays from 6:30pm to 8pm, excluding holidays. Wendl can provide necessary paperwork showing proof of insurance and non-profit. Robertson motioned to waive rental fees for the use of the Community Center on each Monday for Troup 351 with the understanding at all cleanliness requirements are met. Rankin seconded. All members voted yes, motion passes. It was further noted if there is 2” inches or more of snowfall on the evening of intended rental the meeting would be canceled.

James Taylor of Carpentier, Mitchell Goddard & Company presented and reviewed audit findings. Mire also reviewed the recommendations and minor issues. An over payment to Hampton Police Protection of \$216.65 and has been rectified. A process was established to ensure the payment amounts are correct prior to mailing. Any asset in the amount of \$500.00 or greater is claimed as a capital asset, it is recommended this amount be changed to \$5,000.00. The board agreed to change the definition of capital expenditure to \$5,000.00. It was pointed out when deposits are made to the bank the Clerk/Collector Housenga has been recording them as the date the funds were deposited into the bank rather than the date the funds were actually received. Clerk Housenga will change the practice of entering the date of deposit to the received date rather that deposit date. All recommendations of the preliminary audit were accepted. Mr. Taylor took the floor detailing 2019/2020 audit findings. Mr. Taylor was very impressed on how well everything went being this was a first year audit with their firm. Pension liabilities changed greatly this year in the positive. Taylor is very pleased with the financial standings of the Village. It was also noted segregation of duties is very strong within the organization. Fiems inquired if any additional procedures were identified as needing to be changed during the audit process, in which Mr. Taylor just noted the three items Mire touched base on. Rankin noted he had the opportunity to interact with the audit team and was very pleased with the thorough nature of the team. Fiems also gave credit to our Village team, Treasurer Barber, Clerk Housenga, Village President and Trustees, stating he is proud to be apart of the team. Mire also thanked Mr. Taylor and his staff. Mr. Taylor excused himself from the meeting at 7:34pm.

PRESIDENT – Mire: The tax levy was not addressed since the proper paperwork from Rock Island County did not come to complete the calculations.

Mire handed the matter of food trucks over to Clerk Housenga. Housenga reported interest from Thai Town Café to conduct business within the Village has been expressed. At present there are no food truck license ordinances in effect within the Village. Mr. Greg Kerner is the owner of Thai Town Café. Kerner will be renting a suite in the brick building located on Route 84 and 12th Street to be used as a commissary and in house dining for approximately 16 persons. Kerner intends to conduct food prep in the building and cook and sell the food from the truck. Consumers may have the option of dining inside if they would like. Clerk Housenga has talked to the Rock Island County Health Department and all conversations have been confirmed and authorized intended food service. Concerns of available parking and traffic flow were expressed, 1 parking space per 100 sqft of restaurant space is required per ordinance. Mr. Kerner gave statistics on the type of business he has received at his previous location. Kerner also stated he could post parking and traffic information.

Mire recommended Halloween Trick or Treating festivities be held on Saturday, October 31st between 5pm and 8pm. Schnieder would like the ILDPH policy and recommendations concerning Halloween posted to the Village of Rapids City sites. Robertson expressed his concerns and is opposed to conducting the event. Mire stated we have to trust residents and parents to do what is right for the children of our community.

Mire moved the meeting forward by explaining he and Fowler would like to hold the Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon again this year, drive-thru style. Schneider motioned to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$1,500.00 for the Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon. Clark seconded. All members voted yes, motion passes.

Late charge forgiveness program proved to be successful according to preliminary numbers.

POLICE REPORT – Chief Tone: Report as presented. Mire noted Chief Terry Engle street dedication ceremony will be held in Hampton on Sunday, October 18th, 2020 at 4pm. The location is between 3rd and 4th Streets on 4th Avenue. The Board requested Clerk Housenga request a different format of the report presented by the Department each month. The previous format Chief Engle had used is what is preferred which included date, time, patrol or call information for locations in Rapids City. New information being requested is the number of tickets written in Rapids City.

ATTORNEY – N. Mason: Nothing to report at this time. Mire touched base on the property the Village has been pursuing. Mason reported the land portion of the two parcels were sold under tax sale, the parcel with the dwelling did not sell under tax sale. The Village is still in litigation for the property.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Carey: Report as presented.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Report as presented. Bump expressed concerns over the temporary weight limit on 13th Street. With the weight limit imposed the street cannot be plowed. The Board requested the additional inquiry from the engineer concerning the weight limit. MFT funds are available to make culvert repairs, Bump would have liked to see 17th Street. Mire stated 13th Street would be more of a priority due to the possibility of liability.

BUILDING, ZONING & PLANNING – Fiems: Fiems reported small permits are being issued still, possibly for wind storm repairs. Fiems previously expressed concerns over the progress of a new construction home that has seceded progress, after review of the cost of building materials he may have identified why. Since last month progress on the property has begun again.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE – Clark: Clark reported Tug Fest has returned our check for our previous donation since the event did not take place this year. Clark also noted the receipt of Village Ordinance imposing Municipal Cannabis Retailer's Occupation Tax by the Illinois Department of Revenue. Total Adult Use Cannabis tax is 13.25%. Clark authorized a donation to Wounded Warriors in the amount of \$100.00. Clark motioned to pay option # 1 to renew Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association policy at the cost of \$21,072.66. Rankin seconded. All members voted yes, motion carries.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Rankin: Rankin informed the board we are still waiting on Needham Construction to release lien waivers to prior to paying final payments on the 14th Street.

ELECTIONS – Mire: Mire reminded consolidated elections for the Village will be April 6th, 2021, positions available are Village President and 3 Trustee spots. Packets can be picked up for positions beginning September 22nd, 2020 and need to be turned in between December 14th and 21st, 2020. Mire also reminded all to vote in November.

PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY – Robertson: Robertson noted a sight inspection was conducted on the Schuler's Shady Grove Wellness Equipment location by the IDNR. IDNR representative stated a hard surface need meet the mulched area to meet ADA requirements. A quote was presented to install Pro-Techs Surfacing in the amount of \$2,000.00. Additional information would like to be asked in order to make the proper decision to meet compliancy. IDNR will be sending a signage that must be posted prior to completion of the project.

ORDINANCE & LICENSES – Schneider: Schneider noted while attending local businesses over the past weeks he noticed food service staff not using or wearing masks. Schneider would like to see written notice sent to local businesses to enforce the use of masks. Schneider would like the first step to be a written notice and not a phone call as stated in the Illinois Public Act. Mire stated businesses have had a hard time during this time, adding he would like to see a phone call made to businesses to give a friendly reminder before issuing a letter. Fiems stated people are getting more comfortable and a reminder would be welcomed. Mire will draft a letter to send business owners, add to our website and to post on Facebook to remind everyone of mask regulations imposed by the State of Illinois.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EVENT PLANNING & PUBLIC SAFETY – Fowler: Fowler announced filled Halloween Trick or Treat bags will be available for pickup on Friday, October 30th, 2020 from 9am to 5pm at Village Hall. The Police Department has not requested funds for Trick or Treat candy as of yet. Fowler is still throwing around how to handle Christmas festivities for children and will report back.

OLD BUSINESS: Mire reminded all of the upcoming expiration of the police contract. Mire will be touching base with Hampton and Sheriff Bostos seeking bids for police protection. Mire also elaborated he received calls from residents with concerns of the stability of the police force and role of the Police Department within the Village. Mire will be addressing items of concern with the Hampton Mayor and Police Chief Tone. The repair of the wall and a/c units at the Community Center has been scheduled for the end of the month.

NEW BUSINESS: The back room that was just mitigated of mold it appears to be coming back. Rankin feels landscaping is what is needed to in order to rectify the situation. Bump will make phone calls.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

With nothing further to be discussed, Fiems motioned to adjourn this Regular Board Meeting; Rankin seconded. All members of the Board concurred. President Mire adjourned this October 13th, 2020 meeting at 8:50p.m.

Missy M. Housenga
Village Clerk