

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

Roll Call:

Physically Present – Fowler, DeMarlie, Fiems and Robertson

Virtually Present – Rankin

Absent – Schneider

Others Physically Present – Greg Kerner, Donald Logsdon, Chalyn Fornero-Green, Attorney Mason, Treasurer Barber, Clerk Housenga, Director Bump

Others Virtually Present – Sarah Ferguson.

A quorum was physically established.

CONSENT “Omnibus” Agenda: Robertson motioned to approve 11/14/2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, 12/2023 Monthly Bills totaling \$1,067,572.76 and Treasure’s Report presented by Barber for 11/2023; Fiems seconded. All board members voted yes, motion passes.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: Greg Kerner addressed the Board to request approval for placement of a retaining wall at Thai Towne Café, which will be over the utility easement. Fiems motioned to approve the placement of the retaining wall pending Building Inspector approval and a recordable updated legal description that indicates no liability will fall upon the Village if the wall needs to be removed for the purpose of utility maintenance and/or repairs no matter who the owner of the property may be. Fowler seconded the motion, all present board members voted yes, motion carries. Kerner will need to apply for a building permit to complete the proposed project.

Chalyn Fornero-Green expressed concerns of the accessibility of emergency vehicles to homes on 7th Avenue. Bump will work with RCFPD Chief Carey to arrange a trial of getting an emergency vehicle to homes on 7th Avenue.

Mrs. Fornero- Green also explained that during construction of 17th Street trees were removed for the project but the stumps were left at odd levels. Fornero-Green inquired as to why the stumps were not removed and/or the height of the stumps. Mire and Bump stated they remembered conversations stating the hill stability would be greater without the removal of the stumps. Fornero-Green would be ok with just lowering the stump height rather than a complete removal. Housenga will email the engineers to verify information and report back to Bump.

PRESIDENT – Mire: Mire noted this is Nick Mason’s last board meeting for the Village of Rapids City. Mire thanked Nick Mason for his time holding the position of Village Attorney extending his appreciation and gratitude.

Mire reviewed with the Board the contract for legal services as discussed at the November meeting. Califf and Harper, P.C. would provide legal counsel for the village at a rate of \$250.00 per meeting and other specified matters at a cost of \$250.00 per hour effective January 1st, 2024. Robertson motioned to approve the provided agreement from Califf and Harper P.C. which will take effect January 1st, 2024 and expires December 31st, 2026. Fowler seconded the motion, all present board members voted yes, motion carries.

Mire also went through mail expressing thanks for the Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon and Village projects and improvements.

Mire provided the Board with dates for budget planning purposes meeting as a Committee of the Whole Meeting. Clerk Housenga will get the meeting dates published.

POLICE REPORT: Report as presented. Mire noted Hampton Police Department was dissolved at their meeting last night.

ATTORNEY – N. Mason: Mason touched base with the requirements of the Paid Leave For All Workers Act. As the Village already has a paid leave policy in place that exceeds the requirements of the Act no additional action would be needed or necessary.

Mason reviewed a letter sent to the Village from the Illinois Department of Transportation concerning the placement of a lighted informational sign located on the west side of Route 84 at the entrance of the Village. The letter indicates the removal of the sign is required as the proper permitting was not obtained and the use of LED lighting is not permitted in a State Right-of-Way. The Village also received additional correspondence from IDOT after assistance was requested from Representative Spain’s Office. Mason noted the sign is in the Right-of-Way. Mason also stated a utility permit was issued and an inspection was conducted with the sign in place, the sign is placed within our utility easement (sewer), the village already mows and maintains the island where the sign is placed, and the village does not and will not advertise for individual businesses. Mire and Mason would like Housenga to email Bree for Representative Spain’s

Office to request assistance in arranging of a meeting with Masood Ahmad to review options for permitting and work on a remedy for the placement of the sign. Further requesting no action be taken on the sign until after a meeting is arranged.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Carey: Report not provided. Mire took a moment to thank the Rapids City Fire Protection District and the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department for their efforts to make Santa coming to town possible on December 2nd.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Report as presented. Bump has a meeting with East Moline concerning the sewer connections for Illiniwek Park on December 18th, 2023. More information will be reported at a later date.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Rankin: Rankin motioned to approve Axiom Consultants invoice #5484 in the amount of \$10,787.50 for engineering services provided in relation to the 17th Street Project. Fowler seconded the motion; all present members voted yes; motion carries.

Robertson motioned to approve Change Order # 6 related to the 17th Street Project in the amount of \$17,500.00. Rankin seconded the motion, all present members of the board voted yes, motion carries.

Fiems motioned to approve Pay Application # 5 in the amount of \$20,448.75 for work completed on 17th Street payable to Centennial Contractors. Rankin seconded the motion, all present board members voted yes, motion carries.

The Punch List drafted by Axiom Consultants was presented to the board for review for the 17th Street Project. Once all items on the list have been completed final payment on the project will be requested.

Housenga presented a transfer request for \$163,973.13 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund. During the 17th Street Project, the General Fund paid all the bills related to the project including moneys for water improvements. Total water system improvements for the project are \$327,946.25. During the budget planning process conducted for this fiscal year it was determined that a loan would be provided to Water from Sewer and the General Fund, divided equally. Repayment has already begun to each account respectively. Fiems motioned to approve a transfer in the amount of \$163,973.13 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund for water system improvements during the 17th Street project. DeMarlie seconded the motion, all present members voted yes, motion carries.

Fiems motioned to approve Miller Trucking and Excavating invoice # 123502 in the amount of \$8,308.93, charges are for hit water lines during the 17th Street Project not being mapped due to age of the system. Fowler seconded the motion, all present members voted yes, motion carries.

A picture was provided of a storm drain behind 804 17th Street which reflected a drain that has been damaged by wildlife and sunk over the years. Rankin would like to budget for repairs at the upcoming budget meetings.

Discussion of adding stop signs at the intersection of 7th Avenue and 17th Street was discussed. Mire would like to seek opinions from Captain Erickson and the engineers prior to placement.

PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY – Robertson: Robertson attended an Interstate 80 Bridge meeting with Bump. At the meeting the topic was connecting the Great River Trail to the new bridge, allowing access to and from Illinois and Iowa for pedestrian and bike travel. Maintenance responsibilities and possible design were discussed.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EVENT PLANNING & PUBLIC SAFETY – Fowler: Fowler reported Santa had come to town on December 2nd, 2023. Candy canes, hot cocoa and Hershey's Kisses were passed during the event, children, adults and seniors enjoyed the event.

ORDINANCE & LICENSES –Fiems: Nothing to report at this time.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE – Schneider: Fiems motioned to approve a revised Employee Handbook to be effective January 1st, 2024 with an addition of a definition to perfect attendance on page 4 of the document. Robertson seconded the motion, all present members voted yes, motion passes.

Fiems motioned to approve a presented copy a Security Awareness Policy effective immediately. Rankin seconded the motion, all present members voted yes, motion passes.

Fowler motioned to approve medical health care plan through United Health Care UHC w/ DG2W/K355 as well as Delta Dental coverage for dental and vision insurance for eligible employees for the year 2024. Fiems seconded the motion, all present members voted yes, motion carries.

Fowler motioned to approve a Christmas Bonus for employees Bump, Housenga, Hoodjer, Meier and Barber in the amount of \$250.00. DeMarlie seconded the motion, all present members voted yes, motion carries.

A donation to Riverdale Education Foundation was approved in the amount of \$100.00.

ELECTIONS – Mire: Nothing to report.

BUILDING, ZONING & PLANNING – DeMarlie: DeMarlie reported 3 general building permits were issued last month.

VIDEO GAMING – Robertson: Nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

With nothing further to discuss, Fowler motioned to adjourn this Regular Board Meeting at 9:06pm. Fiems seconded the motion, all members of the Board concurred.

Missy M. Housenga
Village Clerk