

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

Roll Call:

Physically Present – Fowler, DeMarlie, Fiems, Rankin and Robertson.

Virtually Present – None.

Absent – None.

Others Physically Present – Attorney Eggers, Treasurer Barber, Clerk Housenga, Director Bump.

Others Virtually Present – None.

A quorum was physically established.

Mire opened this Regular Board Meeting by announcing than Trustee Schneider has resigned due to personal time constraints. Mire will be seeking a replacement and hopeful to get someone appointed soon.

CONSENT “Omnibus” Agenda: Fiems motioned to approve 12/12/2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, 01/2024 Monthly Bills totaling \$110,830.06 and Treasure’s Report presented by Barber for 12/2023; Rankin seconded. All board members voted yes, motion passes.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: None.

PRESIDENT – Mire: Mire noted the meeting he was to have with Public Works Direct Bump, Representative Spain and IDOT concerning our electronic sign was postponed due to the weather and the need for our Public Works Director to plow the streets. The meeting will be rescheduled for the future and following such an update will be provided.

POLICE REPORT: Report as presented.

ATTORNEY – Califf & Harper P.C.: Nothing to report at this time.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Carey: Reports provided for November and December.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Report as presented.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Rankin: Rankin touched base on a response received from Brian Boelk of Axiom Consultants in reference to the question of the tree stump height on the west side of 17th Street. Boelk noted the stumps were left at that height for hill stability.

A discussion took place pertaining to the west entrance of 7th Avenue off of 17th Street. Clerk Housenga sent an email to Boelk questioning why the entrance was narrowed with no response from Boelk. Mire noted the design was changed without notice to the Village. Rankin explained an ambulance and fire truck can enter and exit the west side of 7th Avenue with careful execution and effort.

Rankin motioned to approve invoice # 5484 in the amount of \$10,7487.50 provided by Axiom Consultants. Clarification of the acronyms DES:, PA: and SURV: on the invoice are being requested by the board. All charges are related to the 17th Street Project. Robertson seconded the motion, all members of the board voted yes, motion carries.

Rankin also motioned to approve invoice # 5536 in the amount of \$6,725.00 provided by Axiom Consultants for charges related to the 17th Street Project. Fiems seconded the motion, all present board members voted yes, motion carries.

Rankin motioned to approve Miller Trucking and Excavating invoice # 123614 in the amount of \$6,306.68, charges related to the pressure reduction valve installed on 12th Street. Fowler seconded the motion, all present members voted yes, motion carries.

Clerk Housenga and Treasurer Barber presented a transfer request from the Water System Maintenance Fund to the Water Fund for \$6,306.68. The transfer is to cover the cost of the pressure reduction valve previously approved. Rankin motioned to approve the transfer as presented, Fiems seconded the motion; all board members voted yes, motion carries.

Clerk Housenga noted additional information is required to apply for a FEMA BRIC Grant for the 14th Street Lift Station Flood Wall. Housenga reached out to Boelk of Axiom Consultants to seek the need information. Mire would like to push forward to apply for the grant.

PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY – Robertson: Robertson has been working with Republic Services on a grant for playground equipment for Shadow Hill Park. Currently, the

playground equipment picked out is in excess of \$31,000.00 which is a vast price increase from when originally quoted.

The matter on the agenda concerning bike path tree clearing will be held over to the next meeting as this information is known by Public Works Director Bump.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EVENT PLANNING & PUBLIC SAFETY – Fowler: Fowler and Clerk Housenga will be planning the Easter Egg Hunt event this year at Shadow Hill Park. Clerk Housenga is to order a total of 2,000 filled eggs for this event.

ORDINANCE & LICENSES –Fiems: Water and Sewer tap on fees were discussed. Clerk Housenga provided a study of surrounding municipalities tap on fees for review. The board is to take time to review the information and discuss the matter at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE – Fiems: Mire noted going forward until a Trustee is appointed to replace Schnieder, Fiems will be Committee Head of Personnel & Finance and Ordinance & License. Once a new Trustee is appointed then Fiems will be over Personnel & Finance and the new Trustee will be over Ordinance & License. For now, Clerk Housenga will report on this section of the meeting.

No donation requests were received. Although, thank you was received from the Riverdale Education Foundation for the donation previously given,

Utility billing software support and renewal order was provided for approval by Central Square, Order # Q-162232. The renewal is for Administrator Annual Maintenance, Hand Held Meter Readers Annual Maintenance, Meter Management Annual Maintenance, UB Related Meters Annual Maintenance and Utility Billing Annual Maintenance in the amount of \$1,695.41. Robertson motioned to approve the presented renewal order # Q-162232 in the amount of \$1,695.41. Fowler seconded the motion, all board members voted yes, motion passes.

Clerk Housenga reviewed the presented purchase options for used and new printer, scanner, fax from Office Machine Consultants. The current Village owned printer is no longer operational nor repairable. The used piece of equipment offered in the price quote is currently being used as a loaner at this time. Rankin motioned to purchase the used Toshiba eStudio 50056AC in the amount of \$3200.00 as a one-time purchase with the maintenance agreement from Office Machine Consultants. DeMarlie seconded the motion, all board members voted yes, motion carries.

ELECTIONS – Mire: Nothing to report.

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

VIDEO GAMING – Robertson: Robertson noted construction at QC Mart to accommodate video gaming has started. Licenses for Class I liquor license and 2 video gaming machines have been approved and issued. Robertson also noted The Edge is preparing for floor plan and placement of gaming, at this time the intent is to place 4 machines in the establishment.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

NEW BUSINESS: At this time Mire explained that due to allegations involving a Trustee and Employee entering into Executive Session to handle the matter in a timely fashion with an immediate response. Robertson motioned enter Executive Session at 7:52pm. Rankin seconded the motion, all board members agreed.

At 8:23pm Mire resumed the Regular Board Meeting into Open Session once again. For the record no votes were taken during Closed Session. Via roll call it was determined that DeMarlie, Fiems, Robertson, Rankin, Fowler, Mire, Attorney Eggers and Clerk Housenga were in attendance.

Robertson motioned to enter into an agreement with Kintzinger, Harmon, Konrardy, P.L.C. at a cost of \$300.00 per hour plus expenses for the investigation of the allegations made against the Village, Village Employee and Village Trustee with a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00, investigator named in the contract will be Darin S. Harmon. Rankin seconded the motion. Board members DeMarlie, Robertson, Rankin and Fowler voted yes, Fiems voted present. Motion carries. Mire asked Eggers to inform the investigator to notify the Village if we are in danger of exceeding \$5,000.00 for the investigation prior to running over.

Mire stated he will send communications to the complainant, "Ms. Weight", explaining an independent investigator has been hired to investigate the allegations that have been provided. The correspondence will detail the investigator's name and firm affiliation, further requesting "Ms. Weight" to contact the investigator so he may obtain more information for the investigation.

Mire stated for the record in all the time he has served on the board that he has had the honor of working with Board Members and Employees with the utmost integrity and never has he had to question the integrity of any individual. Further stating the allegations contained in the correspondence he received in his opinion to be disturbingly incorrect based on the knowledge he has of each allegation. Mire believes the best course of action is to hire an independent investigator to investigate the allegations as we should not be our own judge and jury in this particular case. This specific complaint has triggered this type of investigation. Mire stated he stands behind the Board and Village Employees, truly believing that the allegations will not be sustained. Mire states that he is very disturbed of the unfounded allegations that threaten the career of a city employee. The complainant has chosen to hide behind a veil of secrecy, which is their right, therefore the Village will be hiring an investigator. Mire only hopes the allegations were made with truly honest motives. The funds that are being expended for this investigation would have been intended for more desperate causes within the Village. Mire stated he will have a lot more to say on this matter once the investigation is completed.

With nothing further to discuss, Rankin motioned to adjourn this Regular Board Meeting at 8:34pm. DeMarlie seconded the motion, all members of the Board concurred.

Missy M. Housenga
Village Clerk