

COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

The Committee-at-Large Meeting was held Monday, September 19, 2011, at the New Baden Village Hall, 1 East Hanover Street. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Brandmeyer, Trustees Malina, Linthicum, Oster, Nielsen, and Gunn.
Board Members Absent: Trustee Picard. **Staff Members Present:** Clerk Crane; Public Works Commissioner Renth; Chief Building & Zoning Official Green; Treasurer Pollmann and Attorney Gruenke. **Staff Members Absent:** Administrator Morani.

Zoning Hearing Officer

Mayor Brandmeyer stated that Paul Evans, Zoning Hearing Officer, has submitted a letter of resignation from this position due to his recently becoming the Representative for the 102nd District to the Illinois General Assembly. Mayor Brandmeyer introduced Attorney Van-Lear Eckert. He has been recommended by Village Attorney Doug Gruenke. Board packets included Mr. Eckert's resume and professional references; Mr. Eckert has experience practicing as a municipal attorney and currently serves on the Zoning Board of Adjustments for the City of Maplewood, Missouri. The consensus of the Board was to appoint Mr. Eckert at the October 3 regular meeting.

Employee Health Insurance

Julie Wise, insurance broker, was present to discuss how the proposed plan changes affect premium costs. Due to Principal Financial getting out of the health insurance business, United Healthcare will be assuming their clients. The Village's renewal rates are very favorable and can save hundreds of dollars per month by making plan design changes. Based on the quotes from the broker, it appears that staying with United Healthcare is the Village's best option for several reasons, most importantly the lower cost and minimal provider disruption. The quotes she obtained from other carriers were more expensive than our current rates with Principal. In order to reduce costs, the Board should consider plan design modifications. Three areas that will lower the Village's health insurance premiums costs are the (1) annual deductible, (2) co-insurance, and (3) Rx co-pay. Based on the proposals from United Healthcare, Administrator Morani's recommendation is to change the co-insurance rate from 90% to 80% and increase the prescription co-pay amounts from \$10/\$25/\$50 to \$15/\$40/\$75. These plan modifications will save the Village \$864.45 per month compared to our current plan design. He would prefer not make too many drastic changes to the plan this year since we should experience a cost-reduction regardless. The Village can phase-in other sensible plan changes over the next few years. The consensus of the Board was to accept Mr. Morani's recommendation; this will be considered at the October 3 regular meeting.

Public Works Dept. Pick-up Truck

The Village has budgeted for the purchase of a new pick-up truck for the Public Works Department. Staff recommends the Village purchase the state bid vehicle, which is the Ford F-150, at \$17,345.00; due to the timing, this will probably be the 2012 model. This new truck will replace the 1999 Dodge pick-up truck. Board packets included specifications. Discussion on retaining the truck or selling as surplus; Public Works Commission Renth recommends selling the truck. Attorney Gruenke will prepare the appropriate ordinance for authorizing the sale of property for the October 3 regular meeting.

Police Protection at Community Events

Mayor Brandmeyer pointed out a minor change from the previous reviewed version of the policy; the rate will now be determined by dividing the highest paid patrolman providing protection at the event by 2 to get the reimbursement rate. This resolution will be considered at the October 3 regular meeting.

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TIF Application: 207 East Hanover St., Brian Hoerchler

An application has been received for TIF assistance from Brian Hoerchler, who has proposed to renovate the commercial building at 207 East Hanover Street. Discussion on whether to provide assistance to have a viable downtown business or go with a previous suggestion of tearing the building down for a parking lot. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 26 to discuss the proposal. The Board may take action on this at the October 3 regular meeting.

Ben El Second Subdivision

Board members reviewed a report and minor subdivision plat as recommended by the Planning Commission, who held a Public Hearing on August 30, 2011, for the Ben El Second Subdivision. Since this property is located within 1.5 miles of the corporate limits, the plat must be approved by the Village. The subdivision plat is scheduled to be considered for approval at the October 3 regular meeting.

Fire Protection District Sign

The New Baden Fire Protection District has submitted an application to install a sign on the Emergency Services Building. The Board approved the installation, upon approval being given by Jerry Green, Chief Building & Zoning Official, to ensure compliance with Zoning Code. The Board agreed that standard sign permit fees will be waived.

Highway Solicitation

Board members reviewed the proposed ordinance amending regulations for solicitation on public highways that was recommended by the Community Coordination Committee that met on August 29, 2011. This will be considered at the October 3 regular meeting.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Linthicum and seconded by Trustee Nielsen to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session to discuss Litigation.

Ayes: Malina, Linthicum, Oster, Nielsen, Gunn.

Nays: None.

Absent: Picard.

A majority of the Board voting aye, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 7:34 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:56 p.m.

Present: Mayor Brandmeyer, Trustees Malina, Linthicum, Oster, Nielsen, and Gunn.

Absent: Trustee Picard. **Staff Members Present:** Village Clerk Crane; Attorney Doug Gruenke; and Village Treasurer Pollmann.

Trustees Malina and Oster brought up several issues at the park: skate park, tennis courts, soccer field bleachers, discarded equipment, condition of fields, and walking trail. Mayor Brandmeyer stated he was not in favor of spending any additional funds in the park at this time. With the OSLAD Project and other TIF related payouts that will be made by the end of the year, the funds will not be available. The Mayor will have items that can easily be addressed taken care of. He also stated the need for volunteers to assist with all aspects of the park.

Comfort Corner Update

Trustee Gunn requested an update from Attorney Gruenke regarding the Comfort Corner property. Attorney Gruenke stated that the abandonment lawsuit has been filed, the appropriate people have been served, just waiting on a motion of default on the property. Contact has been made with the IEPA in regards to what options are available and to how much progress has been made pertaining to the letter of remediation.

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There being no further business to be discussed by the Village Board, a motion was made by Trustee Malina and seconded by Trustee Gunn to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Malina, Linthicum, Oster, Nielsen, Gunn.

Nays: None.

Absent: Picard.

A majority of the Board voting aye, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Teri Crane, Village Clerk

Approved: October 3, 2011