

COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE MINUTES: NOVEMBER 21, 2011

The Committee-at-Large Meeting was held Monday, November 21, 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; Administrator Morani; Public Works Commissioner Renth; Chief Building & Zoning Official Green; Police Chief Riley; Treasurer Pollmann and Attorneys Gruenke and Palen of Belsheim & Bruckert, LLC.

Audit Report

Annette Hipkiss, of Allison, Knapp & Siekmann, Ltd., was present to discuss the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Audit Report. Administrator Morani noted that a special audit will need to be done for the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the OSLAD grant audit report. These proposals will be considered at the December 5, 2011 regular meeting.

Westport Pools: Pay Request #11

This item was omitted from the November 7, 2011 Agenda as an item that needed further information prior to payment. At the October 3, 2011 meeting it was discussed to hold payment until more information could be obtained in regards to issues with the Splash pad. Consensus of the Board was to send payment in the amount of \$11,300.45 to Westport Pools. This will be formally approved at the December 5 Regular meeting.

Public Safety Employee Benefits Act Guidelines

This is a recommendation from Attorney Gruenke. He recommends the adoption of guidelines pertaining to the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA). These guidelines are intended to inform as well as facilitate receiving and processing claims made under the PSEBA. This is a State mandated Act that requires the Village to provide insurance coverage to a Public Safety Officer who is catastrophically injured while on the job. Premiums would be paid on both the insured and the spouse. This ordinance will be considered at the December 5 regular meeting.

Tax Levy

The Tax Levy Ordinance will be considered at the December 5 regular meeting. It was prepared based on recommendations from the Finance Committee which met on November 3. Increases will appear in the Corporate Rate and the Park. Since the proposed tax levy exceeds 5% of the previous year's extension, a Truth in Taxation public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 5. Going forward there will be additional increases in coming years to make up for deficiencies in previous years.

Liability Insurance Quotes

Administrator Morani solicited quotes from three (3) carriers for property/casualty (PC) and workers' compensation (WC) insurance for 2012: Illinois Counties Risk Management Fund, \$97,814.00; OneBeacon (PC)/Illinois Public Risk Fund (WC), \$76,456.00; and Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association, did not submit a proposal. Mr. Morani recommends maintaining OneBeacon/IPRF as the liability insurance carrier for the Village. This will be considered at the December 5 regular meeting.

Gas Station Ordinance

Discussed was a proposed ordinance for the regulation of abandoned/inoperable gas stations. A recent state court decision allows municipalities certain oversight for gas stations that are abandoned or no longer in service.

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Administrative Adjudication

Administrator Morani reported that Village staff has been exploring ways to improve code enforcement compliance. One method a municipality can utilize is administrative adjudication. Chief Building & Zoning Official Jerry Green and Mr. Morani recently attended seminar on this topic. Attorney Gruenke suggested that several communities could share a hearing officer for this process. The Board expressed interest in the proposed system and it will move forward once additional surrounding communities are interested.

Western Clinton County Senior Services (WCCSS)

Western Clinton County Senior Services, which is the provider of meals for Seniors in both a congregate setting and through Meals on Wheels, has been in touch with Mayor Brandmeyer regarding the Services present location in Trenton. Mayor Brandmeyer asked for support that in the event that the Services program would need to relocate, the Village would assist in making the Civic Center a viable location for them. The Board agreed to provide support to make this a continuing program for the Seniors.

Regional Economic Development

Trustee Nielsen reported on the Community & Economic Development committee meeting that was held on November 2. Ideas discussed included bringing small businesses (employee 20-30 people) to Western Clinton County. The establishment of an Enterprise Zone through a cooperative effort with the City of Trenton was discussed. This effort will require an amendment to the state statute and will most likely require the Village to hire a lobbyist. Also discussed was an Economic Development Corporation consisting of members from New Baden and Trenton. The Committee asked Administrator Morani to continue with his efforts on this project and present it to the full Board at a future date.

Municipal Electric Aggregation

Administrator Morani has been working with several area municipalities on an initiative to help New Baden residents and small businesses save money on their electric utility bills. Board members were presented with information on municipal electric aggregation, which is the result of a new state law that permits a municipality to purchase power on behalf of local consumers through a third party electric supplier. Also reviewed was a draft resolution for the referendum questions and a professional services agreement with Good Energy, with whom Mr. Morani recommends the Village sign with if it decides to pursue this matter. Attorney Gruenke has reviewed the agreement and made revisions that are acceptable to the broker. Mr. Gruenke explained the procedures necessary to implement municipal electric aggregation. If this proceeds, it would be placed on the March 20, 2012 ballot.

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

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

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: December 5, 2011