

COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE MINUTES: APRIL 15, 2013

The Committee-at-Large Meeting was held on Monday, April 15, 2013, at the New Baden Village Hall, 1 East Hanover Street and was called to order at 7:24 p.m.

Prior to the meeting, a public hearing was held in reference to annexation agreements for 428 Wesclin Rd, Trenton; 920 Reeb Rd, New Baden; 8568 State Route 160, New Baden; 9310 Clinton County Line Rd, Trenton; and 416 Wesclin Rd, Trenton, in conjunction with the water and sewer lines to the new Wesclin High School. This public hearing also included a lengthy discussion with Kenneth and Donna Graul, Keith and Jane Athmer and their attorney regarding easements on their respective properties that are needed to be obtained for the project to move forward.

Present: Mayor Brandmeyer, Trustees Malina, Linthicum, Oster (via speakerphone), Picard, Nielsen, and Gunn. **Board Members Absent:** None. **Staff Members Present:** Clerk Crane; Administrator Morani, Public Works Commissioner Renth; Chief Building and Zoning Official Green; Treasurer Pollmann; Police Chief Riley; and Attorney Gruenke of Bruckert, Gruenke & Long, P.C.

Mayor Brandmeyer requested a moment of silence for those affected by the Boston Marathon bombing that happened earlier in the day.

Citizen Comments

Resident Mary Lou Schomaker was present to voice her concerns over the condition of the alley behind 112 West Hanover Street (her parent's home); Public Works Commissioner Renth will check it out. She also inquired on the repairs to be done to the concrete wall and steps in front of her home (106 West Hanover Street), Mr. Renth informed her that it will be repaired by the Public Works Dept. as soon as weather permits. Code Enforcer Jerry Green addressed her questions regarding the person who is renting the storage shed behind the renovated apartment building (3, 5 & 7 North Adams) and his plans to sell items that are stored there.

Public Works Dept. Wastewater Certifications

Mayor Brandmeyer congratulated Public Works Dept. employees Tim Deien, Martin Graul and Mark Thaler for receiving their Class 4 Wastewater Certification. Public Works Commissioner Ron Renth and Lonny Broeckling already had the certification.

South End Water System Improvements Update

Due to a conflict with the proposed storm sewer at South First and Illinois Street, the new water main will be required to be lowered 18 inches to meet code. Additionally, with the South 3rd Street and Parking Lot Improvements project moving forward again (bid letting will be on May 1), asphalt will not need to be replaced after it is torn out. A change order covering all items will be considered at the May 6 regular meeting.

Golf Cart Crossing Regulations

In reference to the Qualified Non-Highway Vehicles (Golf Carts) Ordinance that the Board approved at the May 1, 2013 meeting, Attorney Gruenke stated that it appears the Illinois State Police is taking a different position with enforcement of crossings over state highways. Mr. Gruenke has researched this issue and conferred with his partner Terry Bruckert, both of whom agree the law is vague and that a municipality can authorize this. However, the Village is getting feedback from state agencies to the contrary. Note that other communities, including Breese, Aviston, and Albers, allow crossings at state highways without a 4-way stop or traffic light. Mr. Gruenke gave the Board four (4) options to consider: 1) apply for a waiver that would allow the crossing of the state highways from the Illinois Dept. of Transportation; 2) keep the ordinance, removing the previous approved crossings, knowing that residents could receive a citation, they will cross at their own risk, they would only be violating state law, not the Village code; 3) keep the ordinance with no revisions, again knowing that residents could receive a citation; and 4) rescind the ordinance. The consensus of

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Golf Cart Crossing Regulations, cont.

the board is to rescind the ordinance altogether. Trustee Oster thanked all that had worked on this ordinance, especially Chief Mike Riley.

Cannabis & Drug Paraphernalia Ordinance

Attorney Gruenke and Village Administrator Morani met with the police department to discuss local regulations for cannabis and drug paraphernalia; currently this is only regulated by the State of Illinois, the Village of New Baden does not have an ordinance to enforce. Police Officer Jeff Mavrogeorge was present to discuss this topic. The Board provided feedback to determine if it should consider an ordinance regulating certain activities. Currently, Germantown, Trenton, Breese and Centralia have ordinances regarding this topic. This will be considered at the May 6 regular meeting.

Employee Health Insurance Plan

The Board reviewed the new health insurance premium rates for the plan year commencing on July 1. This represents a 10.6% increase from the previous year. Since the Village is entering the IPBC (health insurance pool) on July 1, it has the flexibility to make plan changes outside of the cookie-cutter options under the previous system. Last year, when the Village increased the deductible to \$500, it was forced to increase the physician, specialist, and generic prescription drug co-pay by \$5 because that was United Health Care's only option for a \$500 deductible plan. Administrator Morani prepared possible modifications to the plan: 1) physician (\$20), specialist (\$40), and generic prescription drug co-pay (\$10) with a 1.09% increase; and 2) physician (\$25), specialist (\$50), and generic prescription drug co-pay (\$5) with a 1.21% increase. The consensus of the Board was to have employee input prior to a decision being made. Administrator Morani will poll all employees.

Fiscal Year 2013/14 Non-Union Employee Wage Adjustments

Based on the performance of several operating funds this fiscal year and the relative wage increases for union employees, Administrator Morani recommends the following positions receive a 3.5% increase: Village Collector (Clerk), Deputy Village Clerk, Chief of Police, Commissioner of Public Works, Director of Ambulance Services, Paramedic, EMT, Treasurer, Park and Recreation Coordinator, Custodian, Crossing Guard, and Public Works Seasonal Laborer. Additionally, he recommends the board consider increasing the monthly stipend for the Chief Building and Zoning Official from \$75 to \$100. This position requires a lot of administrative work and Jerry Green has never asked for additional compensation. Mr. Morani feels that an increase to his stipend would be an acknowledgement of the increased demands for the position and his quality of work.

Richter School Road Right-of-Way Vacation

Love's Travel Stop has requested the abandoned township road, Richter School Road, now under the jurisdiction of the Village due to annexation, be vacated by the Village of New Baden for the Love's Travel Stop Project. This will be considered at the May 6 regular meeting.

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

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 to Closed Session at 8:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:49 p.m.

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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, Picard, Nielsen, Gunn.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

A majority of the Board voting aye, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Teri L Crane, Village Clerk

Approved: May 6, 2013