

COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE MINUTES: NOVEMBER 17, 2014

The Committee-at-Large Meeting was held on Monday, November 17, 2014, at the New Baden Village Hall, 1 East Hanover Street and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Picard.

Present: Mayor Picard, Trustees Malina, Linthicum, Nielsen, Mavrogeorge and Him. **Board Members Absent:** Trustee Oster. **Staff Members Present:** Clerk Crane; Administrator Joost; Public Works Commissioner Renth; Police Chief Riley; Police Officers Mavrogeorge and Rapien; Chief Building & Zoning Official Green; and Attorney Gruenke.

East-West Gateway Council of Governments Award

Mayor Picard displayed the award that the Village of New Baden received for Outstanding Local Government Achievement for Exemplary Accomplishment for the Wastewater Treatment Facility from East-West Gateway Council of Governments at their annual meeting and awards luncheon on November 14 at the St. Louis Hilton at the Ballpark. The Village was nominated for this award based on an application submitted by previous Village Administrator James Morani.

Former Mayor Ralph Bann

Mayor Picard announced that with the passing of former Mayor Ralph Bann, she has authorized the lowering of the flags to half-staff on Tuesday, November 18. Mr. Bann served on the New Baden Village Board for 8 years and was Mayor for 32 years.

Letter of Resignation: Trustee Rafael Him

A motion was made by Trustee Mavrogeorge and seconded by Trustee Nielsen to approve the resignation of Trustee Rafael Him. Mr. Him was recently elected to the Clinton County Board and will take office on December 1, 2014.

Ayes: Malina, Linthicum, Nielsen, Mavrogeorge.

Nays: None.

Absent: Oster.

Abstain: Him.

A majority of the Board voting aye, the motion carried.

Haier Plumbing & Heating, Inc.: Change Order #2: I-64 Water/Sewer Extension

Change Order #2 represents Haier Plumbing & Heating's claim of additional costs due to unforeseen conditions on the sewer main bore project under I-64. During construction, Haier hit large rocks during the bore that required time and effort above and beyond what they included in their original bid. The Village and HMG Engineers have been negotiating reasonable compensation and that is reflected in the \$43,664 included in this final version of the change order. This change order will raise the total construction cost to \$843,050.50. These costs will be paid through the Love's redevelopment agreement. The change order will be considered at the December 8 Regular Meeting.

Right-of-Way Dedication Plats: South 1st St, South 3rd St & East Cedar St

The right-of-ways for these recent road projects on South 1st Street, South 3rd Street and East Cedar Street have never been officially dedicated for public use. These plats will accomplish that. These will be considered by the Board at the December regular meeting and then recorded with Clinton County.

Second Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement with Wesclin School District for Booster Pump

The current Intergovernmental Agreement with the Wesclin School District needs to be amended to provide for the construction of the permanent booster pump to supply water service at the school. This permanent booster pump will be on Wesclin's service line, not on the main water line like the temporary pump, which disrupts the looped service. The pump will be owned and maintained by the Village; the service line will be maintained by Wesclin. The agreement outlines future maintenance responsibilities. The amendment will be considered at the December 8 regular meeting.

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Police Dept. Canine Unit

Police Officer Bruce Rapien addressed the Board regarding Fedor, the Village's Canine Unit. He stated that while Fedor came on originally as a trial, he has become an asset to the Police Dept. assisting in many drug related cases. Fedor is also the only canine unit in Clinton County. Unfortunately, Fedor is older than what was originally thought and has sustained a shoulder injury that will prohibit him from continuing his service, based on the recommendation of Fedor's veterinarian. With the success of the Canine Unit, Officer Rapien has made contact regarding a new dog, Kimbo, a 2-year old Dutch Shepherd. The trainer selling Kimbo is looking to branch into training for law enforcement and in order to have a working dog in a department to show as an example of his training abilities, has offered to sell Kimbo to New Baden for \$2,000, far less than the typical price. Ironically, the money to be used for his purchase is expected to come from cash seized during a vehicular drug stop, where Fedor identified the presence of drugs. Officer Rapien expects to take 6 months to make the transition from Fedor to Kimbo. When Fedor retires, he will stay with the Rapien household. The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the purchase of Kimbo. This will allow Officer Rapien to guarantee the Village's interest in Kimbo until the purchase can be considered by the Board at the December 8 regular meeting.

Crime Free Housing: General Overview

Board members reviewed an overview of Crime Free Rental Housing as it might relate to New Baden. A significant portion of the information is from the City of O'Fallon's ordinance and program, including an analysis after the first year of operation that provides some insights into their experience. Crime Free Housing cannot be approved without New Baden first becoming a home rule community.

Home Rule: General Overview

Board members reviewed additional information on the process of becoming a home rule community by referendum. The Village of Shiloh has recently voted to place a referendum on their April election for home rule, specifically to pursue crime free housing. For reference, Administrator Joost prepared a map of nearby home rule communities and those with crime free housing. If the Board intends to submit a home rule referendum question, it needs to do so no later than the January regular meeting.

Tax Levy Options

Administrator Joost has prepared documentation as to his best estimate of the 2014 Equalized Assessed Valuation of New Baden following the expiration of TIF #1. Using this estimate, he projected the dollar amount of a levy that would produce nearly the same tax rate as last year, (Worksheet 1 labeled 8a) as well as the rate that would be produced if we instead levied the same dollar amount as 2013 (Worksheet 2 labeled 8b). Discussion ensued on which was the best route for the Village. The consensus of the Board was to keep the same tax rate as the previous year; this will require the Village to prepare the Truth in Taxation Notice and hold a public hearing before the Board meeting on December 8. The Tax Levy will be approved at that December 8 meeting.

Enterprise Zone Ordinance

Board members reviewed the proposed ordinance and application for an Enterprise Zone in New Baden. It will also include authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Clinton County and the other municipalities that are participating in the Enterprise Zone. This ordinance will be considered at the December 8 regular meeting.

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Community Newsletter Update

Administrator Joost has begun the process of contacting local businesses as possible advertisers in a community newsletter. There are some commitments for ads but a number of spaces are available. If we intend to publish our first issue in December, we may need to do so by supplementing with other funds and use that issue to try to solicit additional advertisers. The intent is for the newsletter to become self-supporting, but it may take a few issues to begin to do so.

Mayor Picard stated to the Board that she hopes for more interaction from Board members prior to the Board meeting, addressing any questions to herself or Administrator Joost. She also hopes for more discussion and involvement amongst the Board at the Board meetings.

Attorney Gruenke stated that he was pleased to announce that his firm, Bruckert, Gruenke & Long, PC, will soon have an office in New Baden. His firm will assume all clients and occupy the space of the Brandmeyer Law Office, since the election of Attorney Stan Brandmeyer as a Clinton County Judge.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Nielsen and seconded by Trustee Him to recess the meeting to Closed Session to discuss Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Ayes: Malina, Linthicum, Nielsen, Mavrogeorge, Him.

Nays: None.

Absent: Oster.

A majority of the Board voting aye, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

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

Ayes: Malina, Linthicum, Nielsen, Mavrogeorge, Him.

Nays: None.

Absent: Oster.

A majority of the Board voting aye, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Teri L Crane, Village Clerk
Approved: December 8, 2014