

**Minutes of the Village Board of Waterman held Tuesday, September 13, 2016.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Roll call: Ekle, Beach, Lieving, Robinson, and Stanley.

Trustees Andrews and Browder were absent.

Attorney Keith Foster was present as Village council.

**Approve Agenda:** Mayor Ekle requested that "Lions Club request to use lot for Christmas Tree sales" and "Status of FS culvert" be added as Items 8B and 10C respectively. Trustee Robinson motioned to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion approved unanimously.

**Approve Minutes:** Trustee Robinson motioned to approve the Minutes of 8/23/16 as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

**Accept Council Approval Report:** Trustee Robinson motioned to accept the Council Approval Report as presented. Trustee Lieving asked about the \$638 charge to Petersen Const. was for assisting with the work on Well #4 pump replacement. Mayor Ekle stated that the entire job came in less than expected. Roll call vote passed 4 /0.

**Accept Petty Cash Report:** Trustee Robinson motioned to accept the Petty Cash report as presented. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

**Accept Treasurer's Fund Account Report:** Trustee Robinson motioned to approve the Treasurer's Fund Account Report. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

**Mayor's Report:** Christina Bystry-Busch provided an update from the Waterman Enhancement Group regarding the green space development. An informational kiosk is also planned; an example was provided listing all building materials. It would be located on the southeast section. It would include the park name and information about the features of the park, e.g., path being ¼ mile long. Linda Swenson asked why the beautiful sign board that the former Waterman Business Association had built was not going to be used. John Ecker responded that its design was not in line with the natural theme of the park but it should be used. There are plans to plant trees and create a butterfly garden. A list of planting was supplied. A volunteer day is planned for 10/1/16 to plant trees and work on the butterfly garden and berms. A liability insurance policy will be secured before the Halloween event. The Board thanked the WEG for all the work they have done. Trustee Lieving motioned to approve the plans for the butterfly garden, tree planting and kiosk. Trustee Robinson stated that he would recommend that a liability policy be in place before any more is done at the green space. Motion approved unanimously.

The Waterman Lions Club again requests permission to the grass lots on Rt. 30 for sale of their Christmas trees. The Board consented to allow this again this year, it is nice to have downtown.

**Correspondence:**— A letter was received from Bruce and Deborah Johnson with their final TIF loan payment thanking the Village for this assistance with the improvements to their property. The loan is now paid in full.

A letter from DCEDC thank you the Village for its \$400 contribution.

**Request for Consideration:** None.

Roger Bosworth informed the Board that as of Oct. 14, 2016 there will be new rules on money market accounts at institutions, particularly variable rates. The government funds will stay at \$1 per share. These changes might affect the investing policy the Board has established. Check with the banks to make sure they will remain at a stable rate. He also stated that those in the Nationwide plan that have all their funds in the money market might want to reconsider.

**Staff Reports:** – Norm Beeh reported that the construction of Well #5 is still out for bidding. There was an issue and an addendum was necessary. The bids will be opened on 9/22/16. Electronic specs and requirement sent to Mayor Ekle and he brought hard copies. There was pretty good interested as it, it is somewhat unique because it is privately funded by an organization based outside of US. There was some concern from bidders that they will get paid. He suggested that after bid opening and Almanr selects and awards the contract. The Village will not get involved. Almanar wishes to talk with Village, it will be Joe Fareed who is the US citizen in charge of operation and is nervous about the project. There should be an account set up with the current money available and reassure that it should continue come in. He suggested a meeting to go over process, perhaps the last week in September. Want to reassure all parties involved and a personal approach would be best. It is a significant contract. Who will hold money for well project? The contractors would like assurances of obligation of project. There are communication issues and phone conversations are difficult. Attorney Foster has person in his office who may act as an interpreter. Perhaps set it up with a title company-there will be at least \$300k of equipment.

The WWTP pump warnings: There are no more warnings but still not pumping balanced. This needs to be looked into and be resolved.

FS culvert –Mayor Ekle met today Dave Mottet regarding the culvert collapsed and its repair. They had their own survey done and it agreed with what the county and what we had, but there is a portion that that is unknown as to whose property it is on and not worth investigating further. They have two bids and are willing to go ahead as long as the Village helps pay. The property in question most likely goes with house at end of street. There are two smaller drains that come into middle of culvert and these could be routed downstream—that is already in plans. With harvest they would be limited as to when the road could be shut down – two days expected. They will replace it with 54” elliptical. Either companies could do job. Norn suggested that the Village purchase gravel. The total project could cost approximately \$12K with splitting between Village and FS. It must be fixed because with each hard rain it brings in debris. Mayor Ekle was comfortable with conversation and believes all parties could come to an equitable agreement. Norm stated that according to all the maps he reviewed, it is outside Village limits. It is adjacent to the Village street and feeding our storm sewer. When doing this project the rip rap needs to be removed from the ditch. Consensus to go ahead and work with FS to get the project done.

**Committee Reports:**

**Water & Sewer:** Trustee Browder was absent, no report.

**Streets & Alleys:** Trustee Lieving reported that Eric Petersen and Public Works are working on sidewalks and are working well together and the Village is getting a lot of work for our money. Trustee Browder and Trustee Lieving talked with Jim ahead of time so he could plan his day and it all worked out well. He is working on FY17 budget items.

Mayor Ekle reported that a request for additional stop signs at the intersection of Kennedy & Walnut streets. Currently, only the north-bound traffic on Walnut has a stop sign. Trustee Lieving will look into it. This will require an amendment to the Code.

**Public Safety:** – Trustee Stanley – Chief Breese was back to work but provided only the July reports. The August reports were not ready. He and Jim Tuma have determined where the parking restriction signs need to go. He stated that Officer Ford was still receiving his training rate of pay; he has not received his increase. This will be looked into. A check from the State of IL was received in the amount of \$5691.30 as reimbursement for Officer Ford’s training. Chief Breese stated that there were no problems this year at the Lions tractor show that it all went well.

Mayor Ekle commented that received a compliment from one of his suppliers about the young officer in Waterman. He met Officer Ford through function and found him to be nice and appreciated his attitude.

Chief Breese has asked for a change in our cannabis regulations based on Gov. Rauner’s recent changes to the Cannabis Control Act. This is necessary from the court aspect for enforcement. A draft ordinance was provided by Attorney Foster.

Norm Bee will cover for Trustee Browder as far as updates for Water and Sewer.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Trustee Robinson reported that all the exterior lights have been fixed on shelter house but he lost the receipt .

**Finance & Personnel:** – Trustee Beach stated that he will look into Officer Ford’s pay increase.

**Zoning:** Trustee Andrews was absent, no report.

Mayor Ekle reported that an individual looking at purchasing the old jail/city hall building on Cedar Street in order to remodel to live in it and asked if the Board would consider a variance. The Village will not approve a residence in a commercial property. A variance will not happen. The owner has to file not a prospective buyer.

**Planning Commission:** – Mayor Ekle stated that the Village should soon have FS annexation documents and a meeting can then be scheduled.

**Regional Planning Commission:** Linda Swenson – the commission is in limbo in moment with the resignation of Paul Miller and Kevin Hickey has taken over as interim. They confirmed that Linda is the Waterman representative.

**Old Business:**

FS Annexation – Mayor Ekle contacted FS and they have signed all paperwork but made a couple of changes. He will send to Attorney Foster and they will review.

Real estate listings – Linda Swenson reported that since the last meeting the buyers have backed out of the deal at 460 S. Elm. Their lawyer doesn't know what to do; she is an estate planning attorney not a real estate attorney. Linda did stress to them that whatever reasons they were hesitant about; it could all be straightened out. The lot(s) will need to be surveyed. The property is back on the market at a lower price of \$55,000 by consensus. It is unknown what the taxes will be. The potential buyers were from LaSalle Co. and their taxes are much lower.

The lots will need to be surveyed. The title company is requiring it. It was estimated that 460 S. Elm might cost \$500-\$600 and it was suggested that it be surveyed as one parcel and have one parcel number. Trustee Robinson motioned to approve up to \$800 to have the lots at 460 S. Elm. Roll call vote passed 3/0 with Trustee Stanley abstaining.

It was also discussed to hire an appraiser for both lots. This is necessary for the resolution that will need to be adopted. The estimated costs for appraisal could be \$400 for the commercial lots and \$250-\$300 for the residential lot. Trustee Robinson motioned to approve these amounts. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

It was also suggested that all three Rt 30 lots be combined into one lot and have them appraised and surveyed as one.

Trustee Lieving motioned to appraise as lots as one and not to exceed \$2K for this project. Linda is looking for someone from the south part of county for potentially a better price and would have a better handle on smaller community. Funding for these projects will have to come from General Fund for 460 S. Elm and TIF for the Rt. 30 lots. Roll call vote passed 4/0.

Attorney has drafted the resolutions but they cannot be passed until the surveys and appraisals have been completed.

Playground equipment: Trustee Andrews was absent – no information.

The tablet for Public Works has been ordered.

Property maintenance – Trustee Robinson stated he drove by 210 W. Cleveland and 220 is just as bad, it is a jungle. Linda Swenson suggested having it condemned. Chief Breese stated that Zoning had meeting and a plan. Trustee Robinson, a member of that committee, does not recall that and there has been no follow through. He also provided aerial photos of the AMK property showing the boundaries. There is no legal access to the back of the lot because of the large berm in front so everything that is put back there is trespassing to get it back there. Mayor Ekle thought Trustee Andrews was to write the owner a letter. There is no evidence that a letter has been sent. It is time to contact the owner(s) and notify them of the encroachment and potential fines. If it is going to be a salvage yard, it needs to have a fence. It was cleaned up last time but it has become a mess again. The first step is to cite AMK with a day-to-day ordinance violation or give time to fix. There are not endless monies to pursue this. It was suggested to cite per day for both locations. Trustee Robinson will write letters to the owners of the AMK adjacent property in order to have a rapport and try to get it cleaned up for good. There has been no follow up from Trustee Andrews with Chief Breese since the last meeting and promised. If the citations are ignored, it will result in court action.

Trustee Lieving stated that the church (210 E. Lincoln) lot is getting it cleaned up. It also needs to be mowed again.

Trustee Stanley asked about a property on Oak Street owned by Teena Watne and the storage unit that is on the property--how long can it stay there? Mayor Ekle is not aware of a time limit and it is not on the agenda.

Tower battery backup – Trustee Browder is absent, there is no update.

Website: the Village will be providing the majority of the content and all Trustees need to provide contact information. Clerk Bystry-Busch stated that separate e-mail addresses should be specifically Village business. It does not need to be the “villageofwaterman.com” domain.

**New Business:**

Attorney Foster provided a draft ordinance on the cannabis issue for review and adoption at the October meeting.

At the request of Officer Ford, there needs to be rules and regulations for the green space for legal enforcement. Signage will also be necessary. There is a contest for the name at the green space. Mayor Ekle suggested copying what is in place for Waterman Lions Community Park.

Trustee Robinson would like to construct a “Carolers” light display for the clock area and asks that the Village reimburse him for these materials. He will have a dollar amount for the October meeting. Currently the only lights at the clock area are around the fence that circles the clock.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. The next regular Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christina M. Bystry-Busch