

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Village of Brighton Board Meeting

206 S. Main

Brighton, IL 62012

Monday, July 10, 2017 7:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance:
2. Roll Call: Mayor Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present- Trustees-Kent Scheffel, Bill Oertel, Fred Benz, Chris Seniker, and Marcella Wilfong. Also present Ron Smith, Public Works Manager, and Attorney Robert Watson. Absent Paige Beilsmith.
3. Review Minutes and Approval: Bill Oertel made a motion to approve the minutes and place them on file. 2nd by Chris Seniker. Voice Vote: All ayes, no nays. Motion carried.
4. Matters of Recognition: Outstanding Citizens Wilann Eyers Citizen of the Month. She is amazing. She's a wife, mother, runs a daycare and takes care of other people's children, active in her church, feeds the people at the church monthly free meal, secretary of the Betsey Ann Association and I could go on and on. Even though she is not technically in the city limits you can count on her to always volunteer and help out in whatever is needed. I am honored to present to you the citizen of the month award. Jenna Croxton Manager at Casey's and runs one of the best businesses we have in town. Even though she works she volunteers and we appreciate all of her hard work. We also sent a letter to the corporate office to insure they know what an asset Jenna is to our town. She worked tirelessly at the Independence at the Park. Thank you All for your Public Service. John Bramley ran his car show at the Independence Day Event. Fred Benz thank you for being garbage man and bringing your gator up to help out. Marcella Wilfong took care of the hot dog eating contest. Even Laura Doll came to sell soda for her church.
5. Treasurers Reports (Village and Water): Kent Scheffel found issues with numbers not coinciding with the budget sheets we have been working with. SMS sheets he cannot find the income statements and the numbers aren't there. Bob Watson made suggestion to table the Treasurers report over to our next meeting. Kent Scheffel made a motion to lay the report over to the next meeting, 2nd by Fred Benz. Voice Vote: All ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.
6. Review Bills and Approval: Bill Oertel made a motion to approve the bills and charge to appropriate accounts, 2nd by Kent Scheffel. Roll Call: All ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.
7. Hours by Employees: information purpose only
8. Audience Comment: Suzanne Nowaski on backyard chickens brought some handouts on some of the other town's ordinances, pricing, feeding, sample applications from other towns, information on giving directions on how to care for your chickens. I have called other towns and not all have called me back. Some towns do not charge fees or have permits. Some do the same thing as a barking dog. Police respond to the call and no one is called. I was wrong about Godfrey last meeting they do allow chickens but you have to have 40 acres or more, so that would be a farm. Alton I didn't see anything about pricing, but I do see you have to have a permit each year. There is information on building your chicken coop. It looks like it would cost between \$500.00 and up depending on the power. Feed would be about \$15.00 a month so \$180.00 a year. Mike explained we have been working on our budget and it has been turned over to the Public Safety Committee which will meet on July 17, 2017. Public Safety will take into consideration all your information. They will then review and bring back to the board. Bill Oertel asked do you think it's feasible to spend \$500.00 on a chicken coop when eggs are \$.43. Suzanne replied, what are they feeding them? Suzanne said it was therapeutic and more humane treatment for the chickens. Bill stated he's been eating store bought ages a long time and he seems to be ok. She said what do dogs do

for us? What do cats do for us? We have barking dogs all the time. Eric Benefiel stood to speak his thoughts on chickens and stated he was on the opposite end. He is against chickens in a residential area. He does not want them next to him. He loves eggs, loves to eat chicken but does not want to live next to them. That's all there is to it. We live in town. We do not need the varmints and other animals coming into town because of the chickens. It is not good for our community. That's why the rule has been in place for so many years. His argument is against it. When he's in his back yard with his bbq grill I don't want chickens next to me. Suzanne stated if he would have been at the last meeting it was stated that your neighbors would have to agree to have chickens. Mike stated that's not necessarily true. It would depend on what the Public Safety Committee decides and brings back to the Village Board. If we implement we would have to implement rules on it and Chris hasn't had time to look at it yet. Bob Bays from Crestwood stated as far as last meeting we talked about how to keep them rodent feed and put metal wire under the ground to protect your chicken from vermin and to keep them up off the ground. We have a hundred something signatures from people wanting chickens. Suzanne stated she called Jerseyville about any rodent problems and they stated they had bigger issues. Another stated he has grown up with chickens and chickens eat bugs and when growing up in the country he doesn't remember any problems with having chickens and his neighbors didn't even know his family had them. Mayor Roberts asked his name and he said his last name was Arnold.

9. Correspondence: NONE

10. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Clerk Committee- 06/14/17**

- **No Action Items:** Kent Scheffel made motion to accept the minutes and place on file. 2nd by Marcella Wilfong. All Ayes, No Nays. Motion Carried.

B. **Public Works Committee- 06/06/17 & 06/26/17 Meeting Minutes.**

- **Action Item:** Water Rate Increase of \$1.85 Kent Scheffel made motion to table this action as he is uncomfortable with the Treasurers report numbers, 2nd by Marcella Wilfong. Roll Call: All ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.
- **Action Item:** Ameren Gas Pressure Agreement- This Agreement has already been completed. Motion made to approve by Kent Scheffel and 2nd by Bill Oertel. Roll Call: All ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.
- **Action Item:** Caterpillar Backhoe Lease to Replace Current Lease- Motion to Approve the New Lease made by Kent Scheffel and 2nd by Chris Seniker. Roll Call: All Ayes, No Nays. Motion Carried.
- **Action Item:** Approval of Supplemental Agreements for Conflict #47, Conflict #50, Conflict # 63, Conflict # 92, Conflict # 84, Conflict # 146A, and Resolutions. Chris Seniker made motion to accept and file as long as there are no costs to the Village 2nd by Kent Scheffel. All Ayes, No Nays Motion Carried. Bob Watson has asked Cass to get to the Board a decent estimate for Engineering Charges on all items being completed.

C. **Economic Committee – 06/06/17 Meeting Minutes, Chris Seniker made a motion to approve Economic Minutes and place them on file. 2nd by Marcella Wilfong. Voice Vote: All ayes, No Nays. Motion Carried.**

D. **Park Committee-06/08/17 Meeting Minutes**

- **Action Item:** Soccer Field still needs to be repaired and dirt to fill in holes. This action item has been completed. Fred Benz made a motion to approve minutes and place them on file 2nd by Kent Scheffel. Roll Call, All Ayes, No Nays. Motion Carried.

C. **Planning Commission-06/21/2017 Meeting Minutes**

- **Action Item:** Farmers Table is interested in obtaining the alley at the rear of the restaurant. Waiting on notification from the other land owner. Motion made to accept the minutes and place on file made by Kent Scheffel and 2nd by Fred Benz. All Ayes, No Nays Motion Carried.

D. **Public Safety Committee** 06/19/2017 Meeting Minutes

• **Action Item:** Due to the withdrawal of the Brighton Township on Rapid Notify request to charge \$5.00 for individuals outside of Village/ Water Department. They will be attending the August Meeting to discuss the Rapid Notify with the Township Board. Motion made by Bill Oertel to approve Public Safety Minutes and place them on file, 2nd by Chris Seniker. Roll Call: All ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.

E. **Zoning Committee:** 06/20/17 Meeting Minutes

• **Action Item:** Approval of Zoning/building permits and a motion to approve the minutes and place them on file Chris Seniker made a motion to approve the Zoning/Building permits, 2nd by Fred Benz Voice Vote: All ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.

11. **Old Business:** Chris Seniker wanted to discuss some issues with the South Main Project. Where the Railroad to the driveway. Wanted to know if there are plans from Ron to go the remaining feet otherwise there will be water back up in the short unfinished span. Culverts are nice and wide but he believe the other 50 to 75 feet need dug out and rock put down to prevent any problems. Chris asked Cass if we had the proper easements to do this. Cass stated he had only obtained up to the driveway. Cass said we would have to get an easement. Bob Watson stated it the natural drainage and he wasn't sure if we would need an easement. Bob will find out from Jersey County if we need an easement. Chris wanted to talk about two projects with Cass. The Catholic Church project was completed this was supposed to have proper easements with the sewer. Obviously this project wasn't done correctly. Who is responsible for fixing the problems since it was not done correctly. Is SMS saying we screwed up, we should have caught this or whatever? This project is project we weren't expecting to have to redo. Now it looks like it will be a law suit towards the Village. Cass stated they thought since the sewer had been there since the 60's there would have been an easement in place. Chris stated the purpose he believes in having Engineering is so that this kind of problem wouldn't happen. We all make mistakes, but the fees we paid just paid for this project he believes someone should have caught this. So now, we have to pay to move it and whatever the suit would be. Palmer sewer project, the bid included and the board agreed that this would be under the sidewalk. Chris want to know who agreed to this and who made the decision to change the plans after the board voted and accepted it would be done under the sidewalk and new sidewalks would be installed. Now the road is horrible and the bumpy. He believes the road should be repaired now also. Cass said after he got to looking at the project he decided to move it. Cass said he walked it himself and in the stretch up to the Village Hall it wasn't a good option because of the power poles. So Ameren would not have to be present to hold the poles. He did not know it would have been that big of a deal to the Board. Chris asked in the bid it included the cost for new sidewalks. Cass said in the final design it said it would be under the sidewalk where possible. Chris stated the only reason it is under the sidewalk now in front of the Village Hall is because the Mayor called you about it. Mayor stated they asked if they could go out in the street and the Mayor told them no. Mayor told Cass that his Contractor came to him and asked if it could be moved to the street and he told him no that it was bid under the sidewalk and he wanted it under the sidewalk as the Board approved. Cass stated it was bid with sidewalks but to add a sidewalk to not to put in a new one would probably be the same cost. Cass said he should have brought that to the board and stated they were not going to go under the sidewalks. Chris stated at one point Cass stated it had to be done and second you stated it was bid under the sidewalks. Chris stated it can't be both ways. Cass said he would check the bid to see if it would change moving it out to the road. Chris said he doesn't not recall agreeing to this and the it's probably stupid to be arguing over a sidewalk however the sidewalks being new was important to the Board. If it could not have been done someone from SMS should have come to the Board with a revised bid and allowed the Board to Vote and make the final decision. Now they are putting asphalt down and an SMS employee is watching them and it is not smooth. Not even close to being smooth. Chris believe the asphalt should be smooth and looking nice. South Main Project and it was bid at about \$58,000 and added some Rip Rap or something at the end. The total Engineering fees came in somewhere between \$60- \$70,000. The Engineering Contract we have with SMS states 8-10% with additional certain items. I am guessing when the Belvedere and South Main Project bids came to the Board we were not understanding it would be any more than about 10% and we figured that part into our decision. Had the Board known it would be 130% for Engineering Fees Chris does not believe the Board would have ever voted yes. Chris stated at this point the Village has no idea how to even pay for Belvedere Project let alone any other projects needing to be done. In the future the Board deserves to know a better estimate of the Engineering fees. Engineering fees would have never been agreed to higher than the project estimate. Mike Roberts stated the initial estimate stated the engineering fees would be about \$12,000 and went up with the last add on, but from \$12,000 to \$60,000 plus was an amazing extra amount and we are

baffled by the final costs. Chris stated one bill we paid an Engineer 2 ½ hours overtime from a job he was on for someone else before he came to this job. We should never have to pay overtime for anyone. If SMS schedules them on multiple jobs and the employee hits over time send someone else to stand there or sit in their truck and watch the job. Unless it is an emergency situation of our own and then absolutely the Village should pay for the overtime. Employees standing and overseeing these projects range around \$80.00 an hour. Chris understands or he hopes he understands the reason this is done to insure the project is done correctly. Chris does not think we need an SMS employee there 40 hours a week every single day because the reality is there is a lot of down time there. The other day I waited for an SMS employee not realizing he was your son. For the first 35 minutes he was on his phone. I asked him what his duties was and he stated to make sure the asphalt was correct and put in the correct way. If we are hiring reputable installers- which mind you no asphalt was being installed until way later in the afternoon- why would we need someone to do this? The entire morning we are paying \$80.00 an hour while they clean it out and he is waiting for them to bring it in. If the contractor cannot put asphalt in correctly that's a big problem. Do we need to be paying him \$80.00 an hour for a small job that took 2 days or 1 ½ days? Chris thinks maybe it's the Boards fault maybe but doesn't understand why SMS can't come to the job when the actual job starts and tell them to call him before they finish so that he can check the project. Chris believe we are being pounded with engineering fees which has now affected what the Village can have done within the next year. We cut a Police Officer from the budget. We will be making more cuts and unfortunately raising fees. Chris knows it's not SMS's problem but we are having to make tough decisions due to what we are being charged in engineering fees. There has to be a better understanding on what the engineering fees will be in the future so that the Board can make an educated decision moving forward on all bids. Chris asked what Cass projected the Belvedere engineering fees would be and Cass replied he did not have any of that information in front of him. Chris stated we are trying to budget and what we spent on one project was actually the amount that was bid and budgeted for both projects, so now we are trying to determine how we would pay for the other projects. He asked Cass to get us a revised amount of the engineering fees before we finalize our budget. Cass agreed we would have it in a few days. Cass explained we have had a full contact contract with them for years with full observation. Mike stated that we had a ditch dug and really didn't need someone for \$80.00 an hour watching this. Chris asked if SMS actually file all paperwork for an easement. Chris stated he knows a lot about different things but anything outside of his knowledge it is said he is practicing law. Should SMS be the ones to draw up easements since they are not Attorney's? If it's just talking to a home owner like can we have an easement or what would it cost for us to have an easement, Chris believes everything else needs to be completed by Bob Watson our Village Attorney. Cass agreed. Cass stated they get them ready including repair then pass them off to Bob Watson.

12. **New Business:**

- SMS Engineers Payment request for Belvedere Place Storm Sewer Improvements. Kent Scheffel made a motion to approve, 2nd by Bill Oertel. Roll Call: All ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.
- SMS Engineers Payment for Palmer St. Improvements- Bill Oertel made a motion to approve, 2nd by Fred Benz. Roll Call: All ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.
- Employment of Lisa Paslay (Water Dept) & Robin Manns (Police Dept Secretary) - Mike Roberts asked the board to also approve about a \$5.00 per hour raise for Lisa to make her the same as Robin's pay. Motion to approve the hire only without any raise of pay by Chris Seniker and 2nd by Kent Scheffel. Voice Vote All Ayes, No Nays. Motion Carried.
- Approval of Transfer of Funds from Water Surplus to Water O&M in the amount of \$250,000- Motion made to transfer funds by Bill Oertel and 2nd by Fred Benz. Roll Call: All Ayes, No Nays. Motion Carried.
- Approval of Ordinance Establishing the Prevailing Wage Rate for 2017 in Accordance with State Law- This has been completed and now needing to change since Illinois has changed it again. Motion made to change and approve by Kent Scheffel and 2nd by Fred Benz. All Ayes, No Nays Motion Carried.
- Refund of Money to Brighton Township \$1300.00 Rapid Notify Donation & \$500.00 Fireworks Donation. Motion to have Discussion by Chris Seniker and 2nd by Fred Benz. Bob Watson has talked to Township Attorney and the amounts have to be refunded and they are not willing to donate any funds. It is a legal matter since Marcella Wilfong was sworn in on the Village Board and it was her last meeting at the Township. Motion made by Chris Seniker to refund their donations and 2nd by Kent Scheffel. Roll Call: 3 Ayes, 2 Nays by Fred Benz and Marcella Wilfong. Motion Carried.

13. **Executive Session:** NONE

14. **Problems:** Next Budget Meeting Scheduled for August 14, 2017 at 6:00p.m.
15. **Adjournment:** Kent Scheffel made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., 2nd by Fred Benz Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by Village Clerk, Cynthia Tucker