

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING – FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Motion by Trustee Pisarzewski, seconded by Trustee Hudson, to appoint Trustee Kaye to preside over the meeting in the absence of President Kolosh.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Kaye called the Committee Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE – Trustees Kaye, Hudson, Ehlers, Pisarzewski, Kolosh, Atkinson; Recreation Director Dunlop; Building Commissioner Oberman; Assistant Public Works Superintendent Roberts; Police Chief G. Beckman; Fire Chief Habecker.

Also in attendance: Administrator D. Beckman; Attorney S. Dillner.

Absent: President Kolosh; Treasurer Frye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chairman Kaye asked for public comment. There was none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

500 Chicago Road Variance – Attorney Dillner stated last week the Planning and Development Commission heard a request for a variance filed by Mr. Tony Chesser of 500 Chicago Road. This is a corner lot. His garage is along Queens Lane and extends to about three feet from the property line. The zoning code requires a 30 ft. back yard; but since this garage is attached to the house, it's considered part of the house and was previously built into the required back yard setback. Mr. Chesser appeared before the Planning and Development Commission and requested a variance of the 30-ft. required rear yard by 27 feet. He is not going to enlarge the existing garage, just rebuild it.

The Planning and Development Commission last week voted unanimously to grant the variance. Their recommendation and findings are before the Board this evening, as well as an ordinance allowing the variance.

Trustee Ehlers asked if, during the permit process, there will be a new land survey done. Inspector Oberman responded the survey provided suffices because it shows current conditions on the property. Trustee Hudson commented that he was at the Planning and Development meeting, and the Commission was very thorough in their questioning. Inspector Oberman stated that, by local building code, anything that is less than five feet must have a one-hour fire rating on the side that's closest to the lot line. Mr. Chesser has been informed of this requirement.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Administrator Beckman reported, in the absence of Treasurer Frye, he will be giving the Treasurer's Report at the Regular Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Line Item Adjustment Request – Administrator Beckman reviewed his memo dated February 13 for the Board. He is requesting an increase in the Engineering line (01-50-7076) by \$1,400 to be taken from Real Estate Taxes (01-50-8310) for work completed by Robinson Engineering for various issues, including the DECO street resurfacing grant; to increase the Unemployment line (01-55-6016) by \$7,000 and decrease Employee Insurance (01-55-8053) to accommodate claims by past employees that have been approved by IDES and caused the line item to go over; to increase the Police Department Testing line (01-67-8008) by \$950 and decrease Training (01-67-8005) in an attempt by the Police Department to increase their part-time staff after two part-time employees left; to increase the Water Postage line (02-74-7065) by \$1,100 and decrease Employee Insurance (02-74-8053).

Wolcott Contract Extension – Administrator Beckman commented he attended the recent District 154 Wolcott School Board meeting to ask for an extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Wolcott School and the Village of Thornton. This agreement provides for the reimbursement by Wolcott for half of the crossing guard payroll. Their Board unanimously approved the extension; and he would ask for Village Board approval at the Regular meeting.

Chicago Heights Water Bills – Administrator Beckman stated on the voucher list are several water bills from Chicago Heights which were recently received by Thornton. After payment is approved for those bills, he would ask the Board to motion to hold those bills pending the outcome of the current litigation.

Public Works Superintendent Vehicle – Administrator Beckman announced President Kolosh will make his recommendation for a Public Works Superintendent at the March 2nd Board meeting. The previous Public Works vehicle was ordered in August of 2014 and was delivered in mid-September. Upon inspection of this new vehicle, it has been determined this is not a working superintendent's vehicle. It is more an administrative-type car; so the Police Department is willing to accept the vehicle as such. This would necessitate ordering a "working" vehicle for the new Public Works Superintendent. Staff is looking at a utility bed pickup truck with a plow. The body style is more rugged than a regular pickup truck and it is hoped to get several years' service out of this new truck.

Trustee Atkinson commented that, since that vehicle was purchased in this fiscal year and the Police Department was looking to get a new vehicle next fiscal year, and the Village is not going to have a new superintendent until next month, and we are two months out from a new budget, she suggested the Board wait until the new budget to purchase this vehicle. Administrator Beckman responded there is extra money in the capital

purchasing power because of some projects that were not completed this year and because of the grant money received by the Village.

Fire Chief Habecker suggested, since this is a State bid, some of the contracts may expire and the price might go up. The vehicle is currently on the State bid. Trustee Atkinson is not in favor of deferring Infrastructure money into the Equipment Acquisition line to buy another vehicle for the Public Works Department.

Administrator Beckman stated the equipment necessary for our employees to properly do their job is just as important as infrastructure. The vehicle at the Rec Center is in need of about \$2,500 in repair; and putting that much money into a 2003 vehicle is not a good investment. The Village continues to shuffle vehicles around and dump money into them; but cars only last so long. This is a sturdy, rugged vehicle that Public Works expects to get 10 to 15 years out of. After Board discussion, it was decided to have Administrator Beckman find out when the state bid expires. This will be on the agenda for approval at the next Regular meeting. Trustee Atkinson reiterated she is really concerned about the Village's current cash spending.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator Beckman commented that Mayor Kolosh neglected to mention in the newsletter one of the Board's best accomplishments – bringing Jimbooo's to Thornton. He also wanted to apologize for not explaining the effect of the levy on each household; and hopefully, this will be done in the next newsletter.

Administrator Beckman also reported staff had a meeting with Jim Candell over his water concern. The Village paid for a survey done by our reading company, and Mr. Candell was told what he needed to do and how the Village would cooperate in fixing the problem.

NEW BUSINESS

Acting Chairman Kaye mentioned that last Saturday night he had to be taken to Ingalls Hospital. He thanked the paramedics and Thornton Fire Department for their quick response, and the fine job they did.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Pisarzewski, seconded by Trustee Hudson, to adjourn the Committee meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Acting Chairman Kaye adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.