

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 20, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President Kolosh called the Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending Youth Night this evening. The program will be conducted during the Regular Board meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE – President Kolosh; Trustees Kaye, Hudson, Ehlers, Pisarzewski, Kolosh, Atkinson; Recreation Director Dunlop; Fire Chief Habecker; Public Works Superintendent Oberman; Police Chief G. Beckman. Also in attendance: Administrator D. Beckman; Attorney S. Dillner; Engineer Hus; Treasurer Frye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment from the public.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works Building Plans – Trustee Hudson reported this was started with the bond issue. Funds were set aside for the major cost of this building. Since then, administration and staff have been working on trying to lay this plan out.

Before the Board is a proposal done by the architect to make detailed blueprints to be submitted to contractors for bidding purposes. He would like to thank staff and administration for all the work that went into this. Hopefully, there will be some dirt being moved this year.

Administrator Beckman commented that one of the reasons for the architectural plan is to determine the exact size of the building so as to determine the amount of land that will be necessary to accommodate such building. The Board previously received preliminary designs; but this would be more accurate to accommodate exact what the Village needs.

Trustee Ehlers confirmed there is a 15 percent retainer due upon signing. Administrator Beckman stated that would be paid this fiscal year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March '15 Financial Report – Treasurer Frye noted that, on the cash position page, she has included the accounts receivable balances for the utility billing which was done at the request of Trustee Atkinson. From this point on, Treasurer Frye will continue to provide the Board this information. The full report will be presented to the Board at the Regular Board meeting.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

152 Indianwood Fence Variance – Attorney Dillner informed the Board of the facts of the variance request recommended by the Planning and Development Commission. This property is located at 152 Indianwood Drive. It is a request to replace an existing fence. On the agenda this evening for Board approval is an ordinance which grants this variance. Trustee Ehlers confirmed that the distance from the sidewalk will be a total of 14 inches. Public Works Superintendent Oberman commented the property line is 11 inches away from the sidewalk. The variance will be to move the fence three inches to the east of the property line; so this would make it 14 inches away from the sidewalk. President Kolosh stated he attended the Planning and Development meeting; and although there were quite a few area residents there, everyone appeared to support construction of the new fence.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ball Field Maintenance Proposal – Administrator Beckman reported before the Board is a maintenance proposal for the Village's softball fields. He is bringing this before the Board because Superintendent Landini had budgeted \$5,000 for this project. This proposal is for over \$7,000. Administrator Beckman provided a detailed list of everything that is going to be done. This is an every other year expense. Trustee Atkinson confirmed it will be done within the current budget for the department. Administrator Beckman stated the invoice will be paid this fiscal year, and the work will be done before the season begins.

Chicago Heights Water Bills – Administrator Beckman commented that the Board had passed a motion to hold all the water bills due Chicago Heights until the current issue was settled with them. After consulting with Attorney Dillner, the Village of Thornton is at a point where the bills we are holding are accruing to a higher rate than what Chicago Heights owes us. Attorney Dillner suggested Thornton release the oldest payment and hold the newest payment Thornton recently received for February, 2015. So the June, 2014, payment will be paid, but the February, 2015, payment will be withheld.

Administrator Beckman is looking for direction from the Board. By releasing the oldest payment, it shows good faith on Thornton's part. Trustee Hudson asked, if we don't release it, could Thornton be liable for a late payment fee. Administrator Beckman stated there is something in the contract that they could charge Thornton interest after 60 or 90 days; but Thornton could also charge interest on what is owed back.

Attorney Dillner reported he had a conversation with Chicago Heights attorneys about two weeks ago. They indicated Thornton didn't pay water bills in 2006; but Attorney Dillner responded almost immediately showing the bills were paid in full. Attorney Dillner thought that it is in the best interest of Thornton to keep what is owed to us and what Thornton is holding within the \$130-\$140,000 range.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Kolosh reported he is calling a special meeting on Monday, April 27, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the fiscal year '16 budget. Administrator Beckman provided the Board with the first draft of the budget this evening. This is a work in progress; and he hopes to have a final draft of the budget to the Board by the 27th of April.

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Ehlers wanted to thank the new Public Works Superintendent Russ Oberman and the whole Public Works Department. They are doing a nice job on repairing the parkways and cleaning the streets after some of the water main breaks during this past winter. They deserve to be recognized.

Trustee Hudson stated, since this is the last Regular meeting of this Board, he wanted to say what a pleasure it has been working with Trustee Kolosh for the last four years. He's put a lot into this position, did a lot of hard work and time, and it has honestly been a pleasure serving with him.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Beckman reminded all Village officials, department heads and appointed staff that they need to complete their Statements of Economic Interest by May 1.

ADJOURNMENT

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

All in favor.

Motion carried.

President Kolosh adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Village Clerk