

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING – AUGUST 3, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President Kolosh called the Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE – President Kolosh; Trustees Kaye, Hudson, Ehlers, Pisarzewski, Paris, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marty Pratscher, 44 Chippewa, has had some really high spikes in his water bill the last few years. He dropped off some information on June 22, and received a phone call on the 25th, but since then, he hasn't heard anything.

Administrator Beckman apologized for the delay (he was out of town). He has spoken with the Superintendent of Public Works. Their intention is to get a representative from the Village's water meter vendor to come out so we can all meet, look at the information, and figure out what if anything is going on with your water meter. He is more of an expert in the field. Mr. Pratscher distributed a graph showing the history of his water usage and the spikes he is talking about. Administrator Beckman is trying to coordinate everyone's schedules. Mr. Pratscher distributed a few more documents to the Board; and will wait to be contacted.

President Kolosh asked everyone to keep comments and questions for the committee meeting at a minimum until the Regular Board meeting so as to honor Mr. Willing, who doesn't like to be out late.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Midwest Water/Manhole Repairs – Trustee Pisarzewski reported manhole inspections were done in 2014. Total price to do repairs is \$15,980. The company has included manhole numbers and the streets on which they are located, and exactly what repairs are being done. Superintendent Oberman commented, if repairs were needed at the time the inspections were done, it would need to be fixed, even on the new roads. Upon questioning by Trustee Ehlers, it was determined this cost involves repairing approximately half the manholes in Thornton. Superintendent Oberman stated the inspection was just completed for the other half of the manholes. After we get that report, the cost for those repairs will go into next year's budget.

Trustee Pisarzewski wanted to commend the Public Works Department. Trustees were provided a report of some things that have been accomplished recently. The Village of Thornton is looking really nice. Superintendent Oberman stated his employee Colleen is

back to work. She was overwhelmed by all the kindness shown to her while in the hospital. She said it's an unbelievable town; and she's very happy she is working here.

Trustee Paris asked if something could be put in the newsletter that the Village is monitoring the electric rates. There are many companies that are going door-to-door and she would like to warn residents about energy solicitors.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Rodzilla TIF Agreement – Attorney Dillner stated Mr. Shewmake will be here at the Regular meeting to answer questions from the Board.

Road Vacation Ordinance – Attorney Dillner spoke about this home-rule ordinance. Attorney Dillner had initially planned to proceed with the transaction under the Village's home rule power. In talking with the title company, who is from Minnesota and hired by Menards, they wanted the vacation to be pursuant to a home rule ordinance. That's what this is – an ordinance passed under the Village's home-rule power that allows road vacation.

Trustee Atkinson asked what exactly is necessary now to vacate a street. Attorney Dillner responded, under home rule power, currently it takes four votes. Since Thornton is home rule, we can either proceed with the State statutes or, if it pertains to our local government and affairs, we can do it within our own power and it would take a simple majority. There is a State Statute for road vacation which requires three-quarters of the corporate vote.

Administrator Beckman commented Thornton is a home rule unit of government so everything the Board does is under our home rule authority. This ordinance is basically defining what that is.

MWRD Land Sale – Attorney Dillner distributed a picture to help the Board understand what parcels MWRD is interested in purchasing. This is land that's basically south of Andy's Hot Dogs and north of where the reservoir will be.

About five years ago, MWRD purchased a ring around the reservoir to seal it and use as a buffer zone. Thornton owned a roadway that was platted but not installed south of Armory Drive that was transferred to the sanitary district. This got held up because there was a lawsuit filed to condemn parcel 039, which is now complete. They are proposing to transfer the square 041 from the Village to the sanitary district. The appraisal was \$5.00 sf. It's of no great commercial value to the Village. At some point there will be Board action needed to effectuate the transfer of property. The total purchase price will be around \$108,000. Timetable is within the next month.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

30 Arrowhead – Administrator Beckman reported the Board had some discussion about the Village purchasing this property at the last meeting. Since then, Attorney Dillner has confirmed someone has purchased three years of back taxes on this property. Hopefully, the Village will get its lien paid and won't have to take over this property. Consequently, there will be no Board action necessary this evening.

Village WiFi – Administrator Beckman stated improved wifi is need throughout the whole Village. He provided the Boardwith a quote for \$6,900 to provide wifi for every Village building in town. Administrator Beckman will be asking the Board for approval at the Regular meeting.

Boardbook Agreement – Administrator Beckman spoke about this at the last meeting. Trustee Atkinson asked staff to contact other users of this software. The clerk's office made calls to other people Boardbook and everyone spoke well about the program. Going forward, it should be an easy program for trustees and staff to use.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Kolosh has a few announcements he will bring up at the Regular Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

No comment.

NEW BUSINESS

No comment.

PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION

President Kolosh read a proclamation from the Village of Thornton for Don Willing, who served in World War II and then raised his family in Thornton.

Mr. Don Willing made a few comments to the audience, after which the meeting was adjourned and a brief reception was had.

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 7:37 p.m.

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Village Clerk