

FEBRUARY 7, 2005
REGULAR MEETING
7:30 P.M.

Regular meeting of the Village Board held at the Village Hall and called to order by President Peterson with the following members present: Bates, Austin, Trout, Fay, Ryner (present 7:33 P.M.), Kness, Peterson, and Johnson. Absent: none.

Motion by Fay, second by Trout to approve the January 3, 2005 regular meeting and closed session minutes. Roll call votes: Kness – aye, Trout – aye, Austin – aye, Bates – aye, and Fay – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Mr. Richard Herbert present on behalf of the Central Illinois One People Organization requesting the use of the Rodeo Park for their annual Pow Wow June 24, 25, and 26, 2005.

Motion by Bates, second by Fay to permit the Central Illinois One People Organization to use the Rodeo Park for their Pow Wow June 24, 25, and 26, 2005, and to have the organization give the Village a copy of their insurance and nonprofit form. Roll call votes: Trout – aye, Austin – aye, Bates – aye, Kness – aye, Fay – aye, and Ryner – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Linda Rogers, Stacy Phillis, and Ruth Wolter present concerning dogs running loose within the Village. President Peterson explained that Mercer County, at this time, does not have a program in place nor an animal control officer. Mrs. Rogers stated that her cat was killed by a dog, and that the dog also tried to bite a neighbor. President Peterson stated that he had talked to the Village of Viola about their registration a dog tags, and that a resident can take an animal down to the pound. Mrs. Rogers said that she had filed a complaint with the police department, but is afraid of dogs attacking. Village Attorney Steele was present and stated that a person can file a small claims complaint, but the judge would set the fine. He further stated that if a resident can identify the dog and files the complaint, an officer can serve the violation, and the matter would go to court, but the person making the complaint would have to attend court. The Board noted that Mercer County does have a dog registration, and Mercer County animal control is suppose to come, but there is no officer at this time, and the Village's police officers are not trained for animal control. Village Attorney Steele restated that the police officer cannot fine the person, a judge through the court process sets the fine. The Board agreed that a resident would have to make a complaint by calling Mercer County or the Village Police Department, then the Village can issue a violation, and a court date would be set. The Board also agreed to check with Jim Bethell of Bethell's Wildlife Animal Control concerning traps and his services concerning dogs. The Board instructed the Village's Police Department to get a description of any animal running loose within the Village, find out who it belongs to, make a notation of the incident, and use the camera for another piece of evidence.

Motion by Trout, second by Fay to publish a notice on the Village's dog ordinance in the New Windsor Advertiser and post notices within the Village. Roll call votes: Austin – aye, Bates – aye, Kness – aye, Fay – aye, Ryner – aye, and Trout – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

The Board stated that if residents are going to make a complaint on dogs, they must follow through so that a ticket can be issued for the violation.

Ruth Wolter also reported to the Board that there is a drainage problem in front of her block on North Fourth Avenue between Main Street and Walnut Street with water standing over the sidewalk and making a mud pit. Mrs. Wolter requested that rock be put down to help with the mud problem. The Board agreed to look at the problem, and check the culverts, but stated that there will always be run off in that area.

Mr. Christopher J. Dilts present to state that he would be making a running survey of requests that he receives and would report them to the Board. Mr. Dilts also asked what the meeting was on January 18, 2005, the Board replied that there was no meeting on January 18, 2005 at the Village Hall. Mr. Dilts also asked if the caucus was published. The Board replied that the caucus was published in the Times Record newspaper.. Village Clerk Johnson told Mr. Dilts that this is the Village, not a town or township, so if he wants Village information, he needs to state that he wants information from the Village.

The Board agreed to check into dog or fur bearing animal registration and tags with a fee, with that money going towards a contract. The Board also agreed to contact Viola and Woodhull about their animal control and dog tax and registration, and to check if they contract with the counties. The Board agreed to contact Jim Bethell to see if he picks up dogs. The Board tabled any action on registration of dogs until more information is obtained.

President Peterson reported that a hydrant in Windsor Court was struck, but has been approved previously to be fixed.

President Peterson reported that the maintenance department will be addressing the pot holes.

The Board agreed to check the sidewalk by the Skallberg residence that has a section heaving up, but nothing could be done at this time due to the weather.

The Board agreed that only one 16 foot culvert is given per household, and that Kim Jones will be billed for the extra 8 feet of culvert, since she requested 24 feet, but no culvert would be given for the extra garage. The Board agreed to check on the drainage in that area on South Eleventh Avenue.

President Peterson reported that he is working on an emergency program through NIMS, and that the Village received two gas masks through Mercer County by their grant with no cost to the Village.

Police Chief Murphy presented the January 2005 police report. He reported 6,002 miles on the squad, various police actions taken, some water notices served, follow ups to investigations, set up of the new police computer, various complaints handled, the squad's oil was changed, and court on wheel Tax. He also stated that the squad needs a cage partition between the front and back seat. Chief Murphy reported that a mobile radio was found.

The Board agreed to have the lock cut off of the police evidence locker and purchase four new locks, and to catalog the evidence. Chief Murphy had received the key for the police office filing cabinet and the key for the Village Hall from Casey Switzer. Chief Murphy stated that he received a resume for a Village part time officer from Tim Carr.

The Board agreed to place an ad in the Times Record and the Argus newspapers for a part time officer at \$8.25 per hour and complete training and firearms training required.

The Board requested that Chief Murphy post a schedule. President Peterson stated that he would meet with Chief Murphy about a schedule.

Motion by Trout, second by Austin to go into Closed Session for the purpose of police personnel. Roll call votes: Bates – aye, Austin – aye, Trout – aye, Fay – aye, Ryner – aye, and Kness – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was again open.

Motion by Kness, second by Bates to accept the resignation of Casey Switzer as a part time police officer for the Village effective January 22, 2005. Roll call votes: Austin – aye, Ryner – aye, Fay – aye, Trout – aye, Kness – aye, and Bates – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Peterson stated that Mercer County would be contacted for assistance.

Motion by Fay, second by Kness to purchase DSL Internet service at \$99.95 installation and \$49.95 per month for the police department. Roll call votes: Bates – aye, Trout – aye, Fay – aye, Kness – aye, Ryner – aye, and Austin – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Kness, second by Trout to purchase a cage for the Village's police squad car at a cost of \$399.95 plus shipping and handling and account costs if any. Roll call votes: Kness – aye, Trout – aye, Ryner – aye, Bates – nay, Austin – aye, and Fay – aye. Five votes aye, one vote nay, motion carried.

President Peterson stated that he would talk to Helen Creek concerning the water problem in her area and property, since there is a slow down in the flow of water, and there is impeding of the natural flow of water.

Motion by Kness, second by Bates to authorize the January 2005 bills including the addition of the General Store bill's total. Roll call votes: Austin – aye, Ryner – aye, Fay – aye, Kness – aye, Bates – aye, and Trout – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Kness, second by Bates to adjourn. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried. Meeting adjourned.

Claudine D. Johnson
Village Clerk