

APRIL 2, 2012

REGULAR MEETING

7 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: Loving, Trout, Schmitt, Gibeau, and Kness. Absent: James.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Kness to accept the March 5, 2012 regular Board meeting minutes. Roll call votes: Loving – aye, Trout – aye, Schmitt – aye, Gibeau – aye, and Kness – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Peterson stated that the Water Department will set a date for flushing hydrants and publish the dates in the New Windsor advertiser before flushing.

President Peterson stated that the easements are being done with some being signed, but with some issues with trees that will be removed. President Peterson stated he talked to K & R Tree Service to take out one tree at \$800, trim one tree at \$200 (Eric Daves), and trim a small pine tree (Mary Linker) at \$80, but to be done at time the sewer is going in.

Motion by Kness, second by Gibeau to trim the pine tree at \$200 by K & R Tree Service. Roll call votes: Kness – aye, Loving – Aye, Trout – aye, Gibeau – aye, and Schmitt – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Peterson reported that Ameren is not trimming trees yet, but are expected in the Village soon.

The Board agreed to check into cost of a street light at the bottom of the hill on Franklin Street at Karen Riddell's request.

The Board agreed to raise the price of a bucket of rock to \$15 with four bucket s making a load at \$60. Also, the Board agreed to have the Village Maintenance Department pick up limbs at a cost of \$50 per hour.

President Peterson reported that the Mercer County Health Department was called to check on a problem at the Sheila Shull property and across the street from her property.

The Board agreed to have the weather siren tested by the fire department.

Karen Brokaw present, and stated that she is a Mercer County dispatcher and has been for 30 years, and her husband was a police chief. She said that the Village's Police Chief Carl Stotts works really well with Mercer County, with one backing up the other, that traffic has slowed down, and he is always available for Mercer County, handling and taking calls at all hours, day or night. She stated that Chief Stotts is an asset to the community.

Mr. Tom Whiting present and concerned with the Police Chief's duties, especially writing speeding tickets for two miles over the speed limits and hearsay from residents about investigating a theft, working on cases and arrests, the Chief's attitude and disrespect towards people.

Police Chief Stotts present.

Mr. Tom Whiting left the meeting.

Mr. Bill Taylor present as a resident of New Windsor and stated that Chief Stotts take care of the laws , and he respects Chief Stotts and what he is doing, and feels he is doing "one heck of a good job and always there right away."

Ms. Kari Cashen of Skribbles Day Care and apartments present and stated that in her business all employees are women, and that it is nice to know that Chief Stotts is at our beckon call, and that he has even given her his personnel telephone number so that they can get a hold of him in an emergency . She also stated that with the various cases of children that the day care has, it is very reassuring that Chief Stotts is available, and that with her apartments, any issues that arise, such as one case, Chief Stotts was there. Ms. Cashen said that she has been trying to get her renters to park at the same angle so the kids can use the sidewalk, and only two apartments use the front parking, but there was a problem with one renter not parking at the angle, and Chief Stotts went with her to the renter's apartment to explain the angle parking. Ms. Cashen stated that Chief Stotts was very professional, but the renter was irate, but apologized the next day to Ms. Cashen, and knew that the law was no parking over Village sidewalks. Ms. Cashen stated that the rumor was that the renter was mistreated, but Ms. Cashen was there and said that this was not true.

President Peterson read a letter from Mercer County State's Attorney Gregory J. McHugh and Deputy Dusty Terrell supporting Chief Stotts and thanking him for his work.

President Peterson stated that there is a process for complaints, and that is to send a letter stating word for word the complaint, the time of the complaint, and the date of the complaint by certified mail to the Village in his care, and to make sure the complaint letter is signed.

President Peterson reported that he had received a phone call from a gentleman who had gotten a speeding ticket, but did not know the speed limit in or out of the Village and felt that Chief Stotts was rude. President Peterson said he went to Chief Stotts, who he talks to daily, and found out the man had paid the ticket and was just mad that he had gotten a ticket, plus he had trouble finding his license.

President Peterson stated that the unfounded issues with Chief Stotts need to go away, and this is not right as long as Chief Stotts is doing his job.

Kari Cashen said that she had had an issue with Chief Stotts, but she talked to President Peterson, and they talked it over and worked it out in a professional way. President Peterson stated that Chief Stotts and his wife are residents of the Village. Trustee Trout said it takes time, and it is not always easy to come into a small town, but to take the comments with a grain of salt.

Chief Stotts presented the police report for March 2012. He reported that all information on written complaints are legally done and filed with the State's Attorney, the squad has 116,387 miles, 17 traffic tickets, 10 warnings, burglaries, and various duties, water notices served, the burglaries were processed by Mercer County and the violator jailed, the Monmouth Police Department is donating to

the Village an audio and video radio and camera, and it will be installed next Tuesday, and will tape three hours. President Peterson said that with the camera, all stops are to be videotaped to stop the rumor mill. Chief Stotts stated that one dog was taken to the vet in Alpha, and that Martin Allen of Allen's service will let Chief Stotts use the cement area for a bicycle program. Chief Stotts asked the Board to back him when he is right.

Village Attorney Steele stated that he will get the list of yards to be mowed from Chief Stotts. President Peterson requested that the Max Allen property be mowed, and Attorney Steele stated that it is on the tax roll to Max Allen (deceased), but that the EPA doesn't want it touched, the spouse ignores it and refuses to mow it, and it is only in the name of Max Allen. Attorney Steele stated that no one is paying the taxes, and possibly neighbors could mow it. President Peterson stated that has been done, and Martin Allen was mowing it until Attorney Bredburg told him that to touch the grass would disturb what the EPA is concerned about as a health hazard. President Peterson stated that the property's grass is now over 8" tall and will send the maintenance department in to mow, and he will also help.

Village Attorney Steele stated that the Village must do the paperwork by giving a 48 hour notice on the violation, and if at that time there is no one there, have the Police Chief post the notice and take a picture of the property.

Marla Reynolds of the Family Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center present and reported to the Board that the centers do reach New Windsor and have 16 people from the Village. She stated that the center is a smooth running procedure with trained personnel, and that on May 12, 2012 there will be the third Mercer County walk. She asked for the Village's support, with April being Child Abuse Prevention Month. She explained the Champions 4 Children Walk and the bottles for coins donation. She further stated that she has been the director for twenty years, and that Illinois and Federal funds have taken a cut, so now she is out begging.

Motion by Kness, second by Gibeau to donate \$100 from the police fund and \$200 from the Village's General Fund to the Family Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center. Roll call votes: Loving – aye, Trout – aye, Schmitt – aye, Gibeau – aye, and Kness – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Clerk Johnson reported that the Village's Well #2 needs to have its pump pulled, since it is not working, possibly due to lightning striking it. The Board agreed.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Kness to authorize the March 2012 bills. Roll call votes: Kness – aye, Schmitt – aye, Trout – aye, Loving – aye, and Gibeau – aye. All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

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

Claudine D. Johnson, Village Clerk