

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

VILLAGE HALL 6 P.M.

Regular meeting of the Village Board held at the Village Hall and called to order by President Starcevich with the following members present: Loving, Olson, Beattie, Willems, Baker, Burton, Starcevich, and Johnson. Absent: none.

Motion by Willems, second by Baker to approve the October 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes, the Special Meeting minutes, and the Closed Session minutes. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Burton, second by Olson to authorize the October 2022 bills and treasurer report. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

James LaCamera present with concerns about the property at south 4th Avenue and State Street being in bad shape and the property at 414 Sycamore Street that he owns, has a tree that is hollowed out and needs to be taken down. The Board asked Maintenance Supt. Stephen Thorp to look at the tree. (this took place prior to meeting being called to order)

President Starcevich stated that the Village would spray the ball diamond with weed killer in the spring.

Kyle McEwan present from Mercer County Better Together to inform the Board of Challenge Grant goal to raise \$25,000, of which they have \$25,000 so far with local money staying local. He said that the local Cure money and AARPA fund filled a lot of gaps. He is now working on downtown areas about what value is there, what people want, and what would fit. He said this would take roughly a twelve month process. He asked the Board what priorities they had and what was something the Village could do. President Starcevich stated that the village is working on condemning two buildings on Main Street (former Pub & KJ's Café) The Board agreed to talk about this and donate \$1,501 to Mercer County Better Together.

Trustee Willems stated that the old Allen's gas station and lots are going up for auction, and that would be a good location for a business. Trustee Willems stated he had contacted Casey's about it, and did not want to see the property used for a machine shed or grain storage. Mr. McEwan stated that he could help with that if the Village or Mr. Willems were interested in purchasing the property. Trustee Willems stated that the station was built in 1963, and would like to see the property used as a business, not as storage.

President Starcevich reported that Village Attorney Halpin did a continuance on the sewer litigation, and core samples could be done through an interior agreement with Scott County.

President Starcevich stated that Charles David has moved two trucks. Police Chief Bryce Frenell stated that Moline uses a search ordinance from a judge to remove all the stuff in violation, and under the ordinance citation Stephen Thorp would be able to use the Village's equipment and his time be repaid through the citation.

President Starcevich stated that the new scoreboard could have a design on the bottom or sponsors listed, but the color would be maroon. The Board tabled the matter of the design.

President Starcevich stated that the digital sign proposed for the Depot Park would be in the same location but closer to the highway, and Mr. Thorp said it would have signs back to back. Trustee Baker stated she would ask the Ladies Alliance for the funds left over from the Depot Park Committee.

Police Chief Frenell reported that the Impala squad was junk and should be scrapped, then the police department could use the space for a safe that would be compliant to store evidence in. He said he would check into options. He also reported that some laws will change in January such as cashless bail or several that are booked will be released. Chief Frenell said he would like to create an ordinance so that the money stays here from fines, and he is making sure the police rules are compliant, and he would talk to Village Attorney Halpin on this. He stated that the speed limit signs are not done, and a park curfew sign needs to be put up for each park. Chief Frenell would like to see the parents be responsible, and would get sample ordinances for the Board and Mr. Halpin. Chief Frenell said that officers will be required to do more training, thirty hours, in house or with other departments.

Chief Frenell stated that he is looking for grants for the body cameras and making sure they are compliant.

Chief Frenell reported that there had been a burglary at the gas station with suspects taking the ATM machine with \$8,200, and then fled. He said that no money was retrieved and one suspect was still at large, but two were captured. He plans to do more press releases more frequently.

The alley at South First Avenue and Franklin Street is done with branches removed and a twenty foot width. The Board noted that the Maisie Daves property is in violation of the nuisance ordinance.

Motion by Burton, second by Olson to cut the tree down at Sycamore Street and Fourth Avenue at a cost of \$2,400 and \$400 to grind the stump. The tree is a Catalpa Tree. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Willems, second by Burton to cut down the big Maple tree in the Depot Park at a cost of \$1,800 and grind the stump for \$300. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Trustee Olson reported that he and Mr. Thorp cleaned up the leaves in the Depot Park.

The Board agreed to find out the owners of the Cynthia Peer, Burton J. Peterson, and Vann's houses from the County Assessor.

Motion by Willems, second by Burton to donate \$1,501 to Mercer County Better Together.
Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Willems, second by Beattie to donate \$100 to the Ladies Alliance for the Christmas Walk turkeys Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Trustee Baker stated that the Christmas walk would be December 9, 2022

The Board agreed to table any further funds to the Mercer **County** Better Together project for downtown areas until after the first of the year.

Village Clerk Johnson reported that the Caucus for the April General Election would be December 5, 2022 before the regular meeting. 5:30 p.m. Those up for election are Trustees Rick Olson, Karin Baker, and Jason Beattie.

President Starcevich stated that he will check on selling the snow plow and the Impala squad.

The Board agreed to spray the hall for roaches.

Motion by Baker, second by Burton to adjourn. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

Claudine D. Johnson, Village Clerk