

February 2, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Arthur, IL, was held on Monday, February 2, 2009. Village President David Conlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was answered by Trustees Russell Perrine, Shirley Stone, Mike Hilgenberg, Mike McWilliams and Darrell Duzan. Trustee Matt Bernius was absent as well as Village Clerk Jennifer Perrine.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes to a work session held on January 12, 2009 were approved as amended. The minutes to a work session held on January 26, 2009 were approved as sent. Also approved as sent were the regular meeting minutes of January 19, 2009.

Remembrances-None

President Comments and Announcements

President Conlin said he and Sue Perrine had attended a meeting on January 28th in Champaign regarding the Village pension plan through IMRF. The purpose of the meeting was to review investment losses in 2008 and the impact of those losses in the future.

Sue Perrine reviewed the fundamentals of IMRF. The meeting they attended discussed alternative ways to handle the investment losses. IMRF will keep employers informed of their options. Employers will need to make a final decision as to how to handle the rate increase due to these losses by August 31st. Village Auditor Kevin Huffman will be assisting the Village with this decision.

Visitors Comments

Visitors present were Terry Clark, Jim Fleming, Trudi Crossman, Iris Dicks, George Fritz, and Wayne Risley. There were no comments.

Trustees Reports

President Conlin asked the Trustees for their thoughts on the work sessions and how they felt the Village should move on and what to do next. Also, would they like to have another work session for the Board only?

D. Duzan expressed he felt the two speakers at the January 26th work session really did a good job. He felt the work sessions were well worth the time. He said he would be in favor of another work session as a Board.

M. McWilliams said he felt the work sessions were good and informative. It also raised a lot of questions and created more questions for us to consider. He too was in favor of another work session.

M. Hilgenberg said he felt the same about the previous work sessions. He felt they were informative and he learned a lot. He said he was agreeable to another work session with just the Board only. He questioned about whether this Board should be making decisions that would affect the future Board elected in April.

S. Stone said she liked the idea of the Association of Commerce Economic Development Committee. She felt they should share in the responsibility. She also expressed her thanks and appreciation for the get well flowers she received.

R. Perrine made mention of the good job Village employees did regarding the recent snow removal on the streets and sidewalks. As for the work sessions, he said he thought we still needed to talk as a Board. He wasn't sure which Board needed to make a decision. He didn't want to saddle a future Board.

After hearing the Trustees comments, President Conlin said if we have another work session, it would have to be an open meeting. There would be no executive session. Others would be welcome to attend, but the comments would mainly be made by the Board members. Another work session was scheduled for Monday, February 9th, at 7 p.m.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Michael Goodman asked if there were any questions regarding the year end reports he passed out at the last meeting. After receiving no questions, he went over the January monthly report.

The D.A.R.E. program will begin soon. M. Goodman announced a parents meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 4th, at 6:30 p.m. at the grade school. March 11th starts the classroom program with the 6th grade students.

On Thursday, February 5th, all five full-time officers and Sue Perrine will be taking a CPR/AED refresher course sponsored by Carle Hospital. The course will be held at the local extension office at no charge to the Village. This is a bi-annual certification class.

M. Goodman stated he and Sergeant Hansen would be attending an ethics and leadership course next Monday in Mattoon.

Village Attorney's Report

R. Crossman sent an economic stimulus letter regarding the Palmer Street Bridge Project to Representative Tim Johnson since the last meeting. In the letter, he stressed this was an infrastructure project and was also a safety issue.

Old Business

R. Crossman confirmed he had sent correspondence last spring to MediaCom regarding the franchise agreement renewal. He stressed there was nothing wrong with the actual agreement. The Village is just waiting to hear back from MediaCom regarding some service inquiries. The franchise will expire March 20th. The item was tabled until a resolution could be made.

New Business

R. Crossman reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals recommended that a variance request made by the Arthur School District for a double-sided lighted digital sign at 301 E. Columbia be granted. R. Perrine made the motion to concur with the Zoning Board to grant the variance and to also waive the building permit fee. Seconded by D. Duzan. All YEAS. This will be Ordinance 02-02a-09.

R. Crossman reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals failed to recommend a variance request at 805 E. Illinois. Because representation for the owner of this property could not attend tonight's meeting, this item was continued to a future meeting in order to allow them time to prepare their argument.

The employment agreement with Gary Jent will expire on February 23rd. He holds the necessary licenses required to operate our water and sewer plants. President Conlin recommended to the Board that the agreement be extended another year. R. Perrine made the motion to extend the employment agreement with Gary Jent for one year with the same terms as his old agreement. Seconded by S. Stone. M. Hilgenberg asked about other Village employees and their progress in obtaining these licenses. R. Perrine said he had spoken to Jeff Mercer. He is anticipating taking the test for the water plant sometime in April. J. Mercer will start working on the sewer licensing after passing his water licenses. R. Perrine stated the sewer licenses are more complicated than the water licenses. All YEAS.

R. Crossman reported a change order for the Arthur/Atwood Road water main relocation project needs to be made because of the easement not obtained from the Willoughby Trust. This easement was discussed at prior meetings. M. Hilgenberg made the motion to accept the change order for the Arthur/Atwood Road water main relocation project. Seconded by M. McWilliams. All YEAS.

R. Crossman explained the need for an easement revision regarding the University of Illinois. The easement revision would be in regards to the Arthur/Atwood Road water main relocation project. He felt there was not a problem with the revision. It pertained to the wording being more specific than the wording in the original easement. R. Perrine made the motion to accept the University of Illinois easement agreement revision regarding the Arthur/Atwood Road water main relocation project. Seconded by M. Hilgenberg. All YEAS.

Chief Goodman received one bid for the 2002 Ford Crown Victoria Police Car. The bid came from Chicago Motors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,307. R. Perrine asked what we received for the last squad cars sold. M. Goodman said both had been sold on E-Bay for \$2,200 and \$2,700

respectfully. M. Hilgenberg made the motion to reject the bid received and to put the car out for bid on E-Bay. Seconded by M. McWilliams. All YEAS.

Chief Goodman reported he had attended the Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit 2 years ago. He felt this was a worthwhile seminar. It provided good information and gave him an opportunity to network with other chiefs and law enforcement personnel. Motion was made by S. Stone to pay the \$100 registration fee for Chief Goodman to attend the summit on February 25-26. Seconded by D. Duzan. All YEAS.

A request was made by the Arthur Rotary Club for the 2009 fireworks display. M. McWilliams made the motion to grant the donation request of \$7,500 for the 2009 fireworks display. Seconded by D. Duzan. All YEAS.

The Village received three proposals for the Village website. Proposals received were from Amish Country Marketing, APT Computers/Communications, and GovOffice. President Conlin read the first paragraph of a letter he received from Village employee Matt Schrock regarding his thoughts about the current website. President Conlin also stated he had received an unpleasant telephone call from Wm. Scott Kelley, the current website designer, this past Friday. President Conlin welcomed him to attend tonight's meeting, but Mr. Kelley was not present.

R. Crossman commented on the current website. He had discovered over the past weekend why the website was so difficult to access. He explained "Arthur" was misspelled in the search engine as "Athur".

President Conlin stated a letter had been sent to Wm. S. Kelley. M. McWilliams questioned the services Mr. Kelley was hired for. Upon examination of his proposal, he was hired to develop a website. There was no mention of hosting our site.

M. McWilliams stressed that we need to make sure we meet the legal requirements of a governmental website. He also appreciated the bids received from local providers, but felt GovOffice might better serve our needs since they built websites for governmental units. M. Hilgenberg said he approved using local businesses for other services such as repairs. M. McWilliams made the motion to proceed with GovOffice as the Village web provider and to get the source codes from Wm. Scott Kelley. Seconded by R. Perrine. All YEAS.

Approve Expenditures

M. Hilgenberg made the motion to accept the bills in the amount of \$12,111.62 as presented. Seconded by S. Stone. All YEAS.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED David J. Conlin
Village President

ATTEST Ann A. Perrine
Village Comptroller

DATE February 16, 2009