

January 12, 2009 Work Session

A work session meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 12, 2009, in the Municipal Room. President Conlin opened the meeting at 7pm. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ideas of what type of person to hire and their responsibilities for the future of the Village. Trustees present for the meeting were Russell Perrine, Shirley Stone, Mike Hilgenberg, Matt Bernius, Mike McWilliams, and Darrell Duzan.

Visitors present were Terry Clark, Trudi Crossman, Iris Dicks, Lisa Eller, Jim Fleming, George Fritz, Karen Good, Rod Randall, Tracy Scott, and Ervin Yoder. Village employees present were Bob Crossman, Sue Perrine, and Steve Peterson.

President Conlin asked Terry Clark to present information and ideas from the Association of Commerce's Economic Development Committee including why there is a need for a position, community needs, why the Village needs to maintain competitive leadership position in the area, concern for jobs, and projects needing professional guidance and leadership. He presented three options for this person: the Village to employ, businesses to support the Arthur Area Development Corporation to employ, or an independent consulting firm to be hired.

There was discussion about ^{Arthur's} the Village being the largest employer in both counties, how it is different and unique, and that the larger surrounding area also needs to be included in ideas. A brief history of the Arthur Area Development Corporation and its revitalization was discussed. Suggestions for funding were from the Village and businesses. Hopefully, a plan to be implemented can be ready when the new Board begins at the first May meeting. An outside firm might have to be hired to help things get started.

Several surrounding communities have a development corporation with a point person and a Board. Someone from the Village Board is on the development corporation board. It was suggested having one or more of those point persons make a presentation to this group describing his / her community's situation.

Influential people in the Amish economic development also need to be included in discussions.

R. Perrine stated he wants the job totally defined. He thinks that's what went wrong before.

M. McWilliams stated he thinks the direction of the Village and area needs to be decided before moving too far forward.

D. Duzan stated he likes this idea better than trying to find another administrator.

M. Hilgenberg stated he liked the idea of a separate entity and including the surrounding area.

S. Stone stated she likes the co-op idea and hopes the Village would support it.

M. Bernius stated the day to day activities and goals would be defined by the Development Corporation board.

The next step is probably to have someone from one of the surrounding organizations present information. The next meeting was scheduled for January 26 at 7pm. President Conlin asked Rod Randall to contact Brian Moody from Tuscola and Angela Griffin from Coles County to speak.

President Conlin adjourned the meeting at 8:21pm.

APPROVED David J. Conlin
Village President

ATTEST Jennifer Perrine
Village Clerk

DATE February 2, 2009