

Minutes

Village Board of Trustees

April 5, 2011

A **Special Meeting** of the Village of Horseheads Board of Trustees was held on the above date at 4:30 p.m.

Present were:

Village Board and Staff

Mayor Donald Zeigler
Trustee Ronald Swartz
Trustee Larry Clark
Trustee George Koliwasky

Village Manager Walt Herbst
Village Attorney John Groff

Absent

Trustee Suzanne Peters

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zeigler, he noted that Trustee Peters was listening on speakerphone.

The Mayor requested that Village Manager Walter Herbst give a report of his recent activities.

Manager Herbst spoke to the Board and discussed among other things a) roadwork recently performed and to be performed in the vicinity of the Village Hall; b) fees for commercial warehouse enterprises; c) the proposed property registration local law; d) Ian Rossi has commenced work on a full-time basis and would be working on property maintenance and as a Community Service Officer; e) he advised that eight applications had been received for the part-time Court Clerk position and that application would be received through April 20, 2011.

Manager Herbst then reported that he recently he met with James Roemer, Jr., Esq. of the firm of Roemer Wallens Gold and Mineaux LLP, a law firm in Albany, emphasizing in the field of labor relations and in particular municipal labor relations. The Manager reported that his initial interest in the firm was based upon their extensive experience with GML Section 207c matters. Upon meeting with Atty. Roemer, it occurred to Manager Herbst that the firm may be of assistance to the Village in a broader range of labor relations matters, particularly assistance with current collective bargaining between the Village and the CSEA and the Horseheads PBA. Manager Herbst advised that he did background research regarding the firm and its qualifications, and further that Village Attorney John Groff had consulted with his contacts. The reports were overwhelmingly satisfactory with the firm's expertise and professionalism in handling client representation.

Manager Herbst then discussed with the Board the status of current collective bargaining with the Village's labor organizations and its current labor relations representative Paul Mayo. Manager

Herbst indicated that he viewed the retention of the Roemer firm as a step forward in enhancing the Village's representation in labor relations matters, and that severing the Village's relationship with Paul Mayo did not reflect negatively on Mr. Mayo. In conclusion, Manager Herbst recommended to the Board that it engage the Roemer law firm as soon as possible given the pending nature of current collective bargaining negotiations, and further that Mr. Mayo be notified that his services were no longer required.

Resolution by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Peters

WHEREAS, Village Manager Herbst has consulted with the law firm of Roemer Wallens Gold and Mineaux LLP of Albany, NY with respect to its ability and interest in representing the Village of Horseheads in labor relations matters, and

WHEREAS, the Manager has recommended, in light of pending labor contract negotiations with CSEA and the Horseheads PBA, that the Village retain this law firm to assist it in collective bargaining and other employee/employer relations matters per an agreement which had been provided to the Manager, and

WHEREAS, Manager Herbst recommended termination of its engagement of labor relations specialist Paul Mayo, and

WHEREAS, this Board feels that adoption of the Manager's recommendation would be in the best interest of the residents and taxpayers of the Village of Horseheads.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Village Manager Herbst is authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Roemer firm for the retention of same for comprehensive negotiation services (collective bargaining) and other employer/employee relations matters for a term of not more than 3 years at a monthly charge of not more than \$1,300.00. Said agreement to be effective immediately, and a copy of same to be placed on file with the Village Clerk, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Manager Herbst is authorized and directed to notify labor relations specialist Paul Mayo that his services were no longer required effective immediately.

Mayor Zeigler: Aye
Trustee Swartz: Aye
Trustee Koliwasky: Aye
Trustee Clark: Aye

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was closed at 5:35 p.m.

/rmb