

Minutes

Village Board of Trustees

May 12, 2016

A meeting of the Village of Horseheads Board of Trustees was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m.

Present were:

Village Board and Staff

Mayor Louise McIntosh
Trustee Mike Skroskznik
Trustee Brad Lytle
Trustee Pat Gross
Trustee Bill Goodwin

Village Atty. John Groff
Manager's Asst. Rachel Baer

Others Present

Wayne Brubaker, Gardner Rd.
Steve McIntosh, Renwick Lane

Mike Swasta, Watkins Rd.

Resolution by Trustee Lytle, seconded by Trustee Goodwin

BE IT RESOLVED, that the reading of the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of April 28, 2016 be dispensed with and the same stand approved as entered by the Clerk.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor McIntosh	Aye
Trustee Skroskznik	Aye
Trustee Lytle	Aye
Trustee Gross	Aye
Trustee Goodwin	Aye

Financial Reports

Mayor McIntosh stated that Clerk-Treasurer Cunningham is absent tonight, but she sent reports out to you. Through April revenue and expenses together left a surplus of 89K. Still have one more sales tax check for this budget year. All the Chips money is in. And this is the month that all the retro pay goes out.

Resolution by Trustee Gross, seconded by Trustee Skroskznik

BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Planning Board Meeting of April 25th, 2016 and the Traffic Commission Meeting of May 5th, 2016 be received and placed on file in the Village Clerk's Office.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor McIntosh	Aye
Trustee Skroskznik	Aye
Trustee Lytle	Aye
Trustee Gross	Aye
Trustee Goodwin	Aye

Discussion: CDBG Monies

Mayor McIntosh - I sent info out to you. I have more info to gather on the possibility of moving residential funds over to commercial. Need to look at this more. I'll open that for discussion.

Trustee Skroskznik - I'd like to see some money for middle class properties. I understand the advantage of moving to commercial, but I'd like to see middle class be able to renovate their houses.

Mayor McIntosh - don't have any info or criteria for that.

Atty. Groff - criteria on original CDBG Loan was set by HUD. It was designed for low-moderate income people. The parameters basically were cost of living for a family of four. We've had the grant for 26 years. Don't know what the criteria is today.

Trustee Gross - is Pat Hinman going to hand out a brochure when he is citing people.

Mayor - not at this time. We decided not to promote until we figure out what we are doing. We currently have 2 residential loans - and 2 commercial loans. STEG manages commercial side. They charge us 7.5% of the loans. A one-time fee.

Trustee Lytle - Community Progress was 5% but they wanted to go to 15%.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor McIntosh - Sharron and I looked at everything. And we talked to Julie Chevalier. CPI managed residential loans. And the NY Mainstreet loan, but the Village was just to be a supporter. So we gave CPI 5K to do that. CPI won't be a part of us now, so we're really just managing those revolving loans. But CPI has residential loans other than ours to offer residents. So we can still refer them to CPI. Rachel also researched other places that people can go to get financial help. Our residents will not be out in the cold.

Trustee Gross - so are you thinking of placing all this in Code Enf. hands - telling people about where they can go to get loans.

Mayor - we could do that. We need to prepare a plan. Are we going to keep residential loans, who will administer, how will we promote. But at least we know we're ok for the moment. And if residents need help they can still go to CPI.

Trustee Goodwin - could put in newsletter.

Mayor - when Sharron and I started looking at information, we decided to wait until we know more about what we are going to do.

Trustee Skroskznik - lets go do research on both kinds of loans. As to what will be our criteria.

Mayor - met with STEG today. Talked about several things. We need to come up with strategic plan - not a comprehensive plan - for the Village. Steg has offered to come to a workshop with Susan Payne and talk to us about how we want this Village to be in the future.

Discussion ensued.

Atty. Groff - The original CDBG program was 3 pronged - slum blight, economic dev for low mod income, and then residential rehab. It was used to create apartments in Hanover Square. Been used for slum and blight. Also been used for economic development - the Do It Center, for example, and restaurants. As far as allocation of funds, its changed over time.

Mayor - we really need to get a handle on what our plans are before we can move on this.

Trustee Skroskznik - we need to see presentation from STEG.

Trustee Gross - would you prefer we look at business at one planning session, then residential at another.

Mayor - lets decide after we hear from STEG.

Discussion: CSEA Negotiations

Mayor McIntosh - we met last week. Spoke with their union rep, their voting tomorrow.

Ongoing Items

- Reese Property, Maple Grove Lane - everybody got John's email. Its appraised at 55K. Nate has expressed an interest in the land for parks and rec. We rec'd info from the Cemetery. We really need to decide if we want to purchase this. I don't have an answer. I don't know if we need one tonight. But think about ways we could use this property.

Trustee Lytle - odd piece of property. I wonder what Nate wanted to use it for. It would be more for cemetery. Don't see where that fits into parks. Takes it off tax roll too.

Mayor - according to Gary, we could get 900 graves in the whole piece. If we sold 900 graves it would be \$503,000. But, that whole field in front would go first.

Trustee Skroskznik - what about structures on that property.

Atty. Groff - very dated and would require extensive renovations.

Trustee Lytle - only good thing is it would keep other people from buying it and not fixing it up -

have another blighted area.

Trustee Gross - because its close to highway it would require fencing.

Mayor - please everyone think about it.

- SRO at Middle School - John hasn't heard back yet from the Town.

Trustee Gross - need more info. A lot of questions about having the SRO out of the middle school and going to high school. If one wasn't going to be there, there is a possibility the officer could be moved to the high school. What is our liability if there is an incident.

Atty., Groff - you are responsible for what they do. If our officer is there and something is done that shouldn't we have exposure. To say he is a guarantee of safety is an overstatement. There will be times the officer will not be there, and it won't be covered. We're not committed to saying it will be covered at all times. Chief stickler says they understand this. He also said that there may be times where a regular officer is provided to school in absence of SRO. You're talking about taking your regular officers off the street and providing them to the school, which is another nuance. You have to structure what you want.

Trustee Lytle - we're not guaranteeing any particular level of safety by having our SRO there.

Mayor - we should ask the Chief to come to a workshop to answer these questions. We will schedule this for one of our planned workshops.

Workshop on 5/18

Mayor - Two trustees cannot be here next Wednesday - Mike, and Bill. I think we should still keep it, and whoever can come fine. Then we can share info.

Trustee Lytle - I think we all need to be here for this one - it's about the Manager position.

After brief discussion the Board decided to keep the workshop for the 18th, but have the topic be the SRO Officer. And see if Chief Stickler can attend.

Audience Participation - None.

Manager's Report

- DPW
 - Steuben St. done except for curbs and driveways. Should be done next week.
 - Brush pick up over
 - Matthew Circle drainage project is started
 - Water bills go out this week, hope we will have a better idea of savings
- Police
 - Interview room is done in PD office
 - Dan West is Kiwanis officer of the year.

- Community Showcase Video has been turned off on our website. The video did not depict our village. We requested to meet with them, but have not heard. We had several businesses call about this.
- Reese property: do we wish to purchase?
- Second meeting of the I86 vibrant committee. More to come on this.
- CSEA has not made a decision.

Trustee Lytle - if we discontinue the CGI ok, but the village promoted that - based upon some peoples buying ads - we should find out who they are so we can let them know that we have nothing to do with that anymore.

Mayor - on Court security I talked to Ed Fairbrother - they are meeting Friday and he will let us know.

104 Fletcher St. - Water Meter

Trustee Skroskznik - rec'd calls from Deb Lynch on water meter issue, and the letter she rec'd. She told me the history. I felt that after hearing this and talking to Chris Lawrick and the Mayor that she has a valid complaint. I don't know what the idea is, if we are going to shut off her water.

Mayor - we are not. . I talked to her today. Asked her to come tonight. I attached the InLine policy for water meters. There are a couple ways we can go. I want it to be fair for all residents. If you look at what I circled, that is the questionable spot. According to our records we repaired 8 years ago. Plumbing codes may have been ok then. If we repair this do we repair everyone else's and bring them up to code. With the InLine policy, if she lets us install, and something happens within 90 days the Village could be liable.

Trustee Lytle - this is unique. We caused the problem on the inside, by something we did on the outside. We repaired it. Don't think we'll find that situation at other places.

Mayor - a suggestion is to have her hire a plumber to fix, and we'll pay. Its obvious to me that if we go in today something will go wrong. When we began this water meter program InLine got a call from this person and was told she didn't want meter replaced, wanted old one calibrated. The past administration said no. So technically our water policy is that we don't do anything inside. We have fixed the problem to the best of our ability. It may not be according to code today. So I'm going to leave this decision up to the Board. You tell me what you want the Manager to do.

Trustee Skroskznik - if it needs to be replaced, we should do it - not hire someone.

Trustee Goodwin - or if we hired someone, pay only up to a certain amount. \$300, \$400, etc.

Mayor - It appears that we're kind of caught here. My gut feeling is that if we replace it we could have problems down the road.

Trustee Lytle - get estimate from plumber so we know what we're talking about. Get a quote. But I think it's a good idea to have someone else do it. Then we'll put in the meter.

Atty. Groff - Whether you're doing it or a plumber someone assumes responsibility. So I'm not sure if I'm the plumber that I would take the responsibility for it, and that will be reflected in fees. If there is a problem down the road due to plumbers work, the property owner will probably not be happy with that.

Owner will want the Village to assume responsibility. She still looks at this as a Village incident - the original thing that caused the problem.

Mayor - she wants us to say that if something happens because of new meter then we would pay for any damages.

Trustee Skroskznik - part of our policy is not to do work inside someone's house - besides new meter. I suggest we get 3 quotes from plumbers. Figure out how much we want to spend so we can do install.

Mayor - need to talk with her first. If one Trustee wants to take this on and go and talk with her and tell her we're getting quotes, etc. etc.

Trustee Goodwin - I'll talk to her. I'll figure out a solution with her.

Trustee Gross - if she picks the plumber we have to tell her at that point our responsibility is over with.

Trustee Goodwin - when it does get fixed the meter should go in the same day.

BOT, Department Head Updates

Trustee Gross:

- Workforce Dev. Comm. Mtg. next week
- Did have final meeting with Wendell - will miss them
- Wendell said that each pole will have a number so if the light goes out they can check the number.
- Should put that in the newsletter.
- Police said there were a few other lights they don't think were replaced.
- Mayor McIntosh - they got back to me today, they were done.

Trustee Skroskznik:

- Nothing to report on Parks - influx of basketball players at Thorne St. Would be nice to see multiple courts down there, instead of tennis courts that aren't used.
- Fire dept - nothing to report. Chief out of town.
- CPI Presentation for Hanover Square. Its this Saturday. The Village has nothing whatsoever to do with this. That is a private parking lot. Owner called me - said she doesn't know why they are using my property. Owner did not initiate this. So he's expressing his concern as to why we are allowing this. I assured him we had nothing to do with this, although she is using our building.

Trustee Lytle - using our council room which makes it look like she is representing us. All of this is private property. If it's all up to code we have no say in what goes on. So I said I might go to this, but what I'm hearing maybe we shouldn't have anyone there.

Mayor McIntosh - I agree. This is something that CPI got a grant for students to do design work. The idea was that she would make suggestions to private owners. Due to issues with drainage, etc. I'm not going to be there. I suggest that nobody else is either. Continue to say to property owners that we only let her use this room.

Trustee Lytle:

- Distributed drawings on property across from Biltmore - senior assisted living area.

Trustee Goodwin:

- Two options for Code Enf. - Heights or Town of Hhds. - Acting Manager is reviewing.
- Attended Judge Brockway's court - moving very smoothly. This Wednesday I will attend Judge Tarantelli's court.

Atty. Groff:

- Pathways - working on final verbiage on utilizing rec space.
- Schlumberger stormwater management agmt. - close to being final.
- Being sued by Anschutz. They have a gas well in the Holding Point. They are asserting that the Town assessor over assessed them. They are seeking to have Village, County, and School return tax money to them. In our case it appears its approx. 32K in tax revenue that is excessive just for the Village. Assessment on one well is \$8.8M. They think its worth around \$4M. You'll receive more info later.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

/rmb