

Minutes

Village Board of Trustees

March 28, 2013

A regular 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 Donald Zeigler
Trustee Larry Clark
Trustee Mike Skroskznik
Village Manager Walt Herbst
Village Attorney John Groff

Clerk-Treasurer Sharron Cunningham
Deputy Clerk Donna Hartsock
Manager's Asst. Rachel Baer

Absent:

Trustee Ron Swartz
Trustee George Koliwasky

Others Present

Steve Connors, Church of Christ
Wayne Brubaker, Gardner Rd.
Colin Diehl, MRB Group
Barb Clark, Sayre St.

Brad Lytle, Grand Central Ave.
Elliott Blauvelt, Jr., Fletcher St.
Paul Adlrich, Watkins Rd.

Resolution by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Skroskznik

BE IT RESOLVED, that the reading of the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of March 14, 2013 be dispensed with and the same stand approved as entered by the Clerk.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Zeigler	Aye
Trustee Clark	Aye
Trustee Skroskznik	Aye

Resolution by Trustee Skroskznik, seconded by Trustee Clark

BE IT RESOLVED, that the application of the Horseheads American Legion, Ithaca Road, Horseheads, for an Amendment to their Planned Unit Development for a new sign is hereby received, and same is to be forwarded to the Village, Town and County Planning Boards for their review and comment.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Zeigler	Aye
Trustee Clark	Aye
Trustee Skroskznik	Aye

Resolution by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Skroskznik

BE IT RESOLVED, that a Special Board of Trustees meeting is hereby scheduled for Thursday, April 11th, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of going into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Zeigler	Aye
Trustee Clark	Aye
Trustee Skroskznik	Aye

Discussion on Scheduling another workshop on parking issues: After brief discussion the Board agreed to have another Workshop on Parking, set for Thursday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. Manager Herbst to check with Trustee Koliwasky on his availability.

Trustee Skroskznik stated that it has come to his attention that there was a discussion between the Village Manager and an employee of the Police Department regarding a possible layoff. The Board has not discussed this issue, and this employee is now seeking other employment.

Village Manager Herbst - that is not factual. This is about the School Resource Officer. One of the questions was if we don't have one then would we reduce the number of officers on the force. Going back to the original grant for the SRO wherein the requirements were to add an officer for SRO. My discussion with that employee was along the lines of where we stand with the Town of Horseheads not participating in the program, and the status at that point was questionable. The Town was suggesting strongly that it was a school district problem and that they should resolve it. That was the extent of discussion with that employee. However rumors do fly and obviously this got magnified. So I had a discussion with the Police Chief and PBA reps this morning.

Trustee Skroskznik - I had no knowledge of this. It was news to me that we may be laying off an employee. That is why I had to ask.

Manager Herbst - since then we have received a letter from the Town that says they officially decline to participate in SRO cost. Now, the Town resident population of the high school is 40%. Village is 30%. Initial discussions with the Town was that they would participate on a pro rata share, but they clearly have changed their mind. Their opinion remains that it is a school district issue and not a Town issue, and that the school should pay for it and assess for it .

7:10 p.m. - At this time Atty. Groff declared open a Public Hearing regarding the application of the Church of Christ, Miller St., for a Special Sign Permit.

Steve Connors, minister at Church of Christ, came forward. We are trying to replace our temporary sign. I believe it meets all code requirements. Same sign as Presbyterian church has just north of us.

As nobody else came forward to speak, Atty. Groff declared the public hearing closed.

SEQR Review and Possible Action - Church of Christ, Special Sign Permit

Mayor Zeigler - I would like to discuss this when we have a full Board present.

Motion by Trustee Clark to table this item until our next regular meeting on April 11th, 2013.
Seconded by Trustee Skroskznik.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Zeigler	Aye
Trustee Clark	Aye
Trustee Skroskznik	Aye

7:15pm - At this time Atty. Groff declared open a Public Hearing regarding the application of the First Baptist Church, Grand Central Avenue, for a Special Sign Permit.

Paul Aldrich, Administrator of First Baptist Church, came forward. We've been working on a better sign. We've had many complaints from parishioners and others that the signage we have is not very good. We've been using a portable sign for a long time. The new sign will be lit with variable information on bottom half. It was already approved by the Traffic Commission and Planning Board.

As nobody else came forward to speak, Atty. Groff declared the public hearing closed.

SEQR Review and Possible Action - First Baptist Church, Special Sign Permit

Trustee Clark - I think we should table this item also.

Motion by Trustee Clark to table this item until our next regular meeting on April 11th, 2013.
Seconded by Trustee Skroskznik.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Zeigler	Aye
Trustee Clark	Aye
Trustee Skroskznik	Aye

Audience Participation -

Brad Lytle, 2227 Grand Central Avenue - distributed photos of old Horseheads sign done by the Merchants Assoc. years ago. I'm assuming poles that held the sign are owned by the Village. Sign that used to be on Watkins Road is missing. I just didn't know who owned these, I think they were good advertisement for the Village. Perhaps we could get new merchants involved in refurbishing these signs as entrance into the Village.

Atty. Groff - signs were not municipal property. It was a project that the Merchants Assoc. involved itself in. They had support from service orgs that helped with the community project. Not something that the Village was directly involved in. No right of way or any connection with the signs.

Mayor Zeigler - going to talk to Trustee Swartz on this. I remember these old signs. He'll be here at next meeting.

Elliott Blauvelt, Fletcher St. - I have a donation for packhorse from the Masons. Also, that sign coming into Horseheads, going way back, spent time and money putting signs up in those two locations. I too would like to see that old sign put back up.

Trustee Skroskznik - I have some budget questions, according to NYCOM wasn't our budget supposed to be filed with the Village Clerk by March 20th.

Manager Herbst - that is only a recommendation. I sent out a memo recently. I will send out more info.

Trustee Skroskznik - rules said it has to be strictly adhered to. It says the Clerk will present the budget to the Board by March 31st, which is this Sunday. Then we are supposed to have a public hearing on April 15th. I'd like to look at it before public gets a look at it.

Manager Herbst - you will.

Atty. Groff - there are statutory requirements, NYCOM is an association that assists municipalities.

Trustee Skroskznik distributed info from NYCOM manual about budget process.

Atty. Groff - I believe this is referring to a statutory requirement, rather than a recommendation.

Trustee Skroskznik - I just want us to be in compliance.

Manager Herbst - historically we would discuss informally with the Trustees. Things can change very quickly.

Manager Herbst reported on the following items:

- Town of Hhds. is also terminating its agreement for Parks and Rec services.
- Well #5 - even though we got the grant for 4.4 million which will pay for filtration plant, we still have to notify our water customers that we had this finding by DOH and that the well was under surface water, etc. etc. We have to continue to produce notices for residents until filtration plan is

constructed. We included a statement in our annual water quality report. Residents will also be getting that. Also put it in newsletter. We're thinking completion by January.

- Highway CHIPS money, Village is going to receive an extra 38K for our streets, etc. or for capital improvement.
- Blostein Blvd. composting project is moving forward.

Atty. Groff - We modified BOT rules recently, one thing we did was allow you to combine your public hearings by scheduling all at same time.

Sharron Cunningham - newsletter going out beginning of next week.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

/rmb