

WALNUT VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday February 7, 2023

The meeting with the President and Board of Trustees held on the 7th day of February 2023 started at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall in the Village of Walnut, IL.

President Rosenthal directed the Clerk to call roll and the following Trustees answered present: Duane Christensen, Brian Stull, John Middleton, Lee Johnston and Brian Smith. Melissa Dye was absent.

President Rosenthal asked if there were any additions or corrections to make to the regular meeting minutes from January 17, 2022. With none made, a motion made by Christensen and second by Smith to approve the minutes. On roll call vote, all present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer Wolf presented the bills for \$10,190.89. A motion made by Stull and second by Johnston to approve the bills as presented. On roll call vote, all present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Next were Reports and Communications. President Rosenthal explained the Engineering Agreement for the Main Street Sidewalk and Street Lighting Replacement Project. He explained that this is the USDA Rural Development Grant that we applied for and was awarded. This agreement is strictly for the engineering portion of it from Willett Hofmann. The phase totals are the construction phase is \$25,000 for the basic services. During the construction phase it is \$5,700 and the construction staking is \$1,200 for a total of \$31,900.00. That is our portion of a \$137,000 project. A motion made by Middleton and second by Smith to approve the Engineering Agreement for the Main Street sidewalk and street lighting replacement project. On roll call vote, all present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Chief Cox discussed the radio issues. He stated that he wished he had better news but unfortunately the idea of going in together with the school won't work because what they need won't work for the Police Dept. and what we need won't work for the school. There was a company that came out and did diagnostics on the squad cars, they said the squad cars are fine and the problem is that we sit down in a bowl where there is bad service. Until the County starts putting towers up, we are going to end up wasting money to fix the problem. While the company was doing the diagnostics, they found out that the Walnut Police Dept. was FCC license has been expired for several years and needed to be renewed ASAP so we don't get fined. President Rosenthal made the executive decision to renew the license for \$2,000.00.

Finance Committee – Chairman Middleton asked if the committees had any budget projects lined up yet. Spt. Minks stated that a big chunk of the projects will be streets and alleys and the Forty Project. Johnston would like to have a St. & Alley and Water & Sewer Committee meeting with the Finance.

Streets & Alleys – Chairman Johnston stated that Spt. Minks spoke with Willett Hofmann and found two different ways to seal coat the roads. One is an aggregate and the other is bit material, it's the recycled material from the mill that they break down. Spt. Minks explained that slag would work better for in town because there wouldn't be as much waste.

Spt. Minks stated that they are looking to redo Yerk St. and that there are TARP Funds available for that and other streets including the Forty. Including Depot Street since it's a truck route for Avanti's and Walnut Custom Components.

Water & Sewer – Nothing at this time.

Garbage – Nothing this time.

Law and Order - Nothing at this time.

Cemetery – Nothing at this time.

Local Improvements – Chairman Smith discussed the Solar Project. He stated that we won't be able to put solar panels at the water plant. Smith stated that the project is being planned to start working on this year. The project is going to be coordinated with the Clean Energy Design Group. They are a group that goes out and provides solar units for villages. They actually own the equipment; the Village would not own anything or have to put out anything except for prepping the area for them. The life expectancy of the equipment is 30 years, power inverters that move the panels with the sun have a 15-year life span. Smith explained to the board that the panels would produce over 94% of the power that the village would use at the Water Treatment Plant. Adding that he had spoken to the attorneys, and they did not have any red flags regarding this project. Smith gave the board members copies of the project

proposal. He explained that the panel will be on the West side of the lane. There will need to be borders all the way around the panels and the Village will have to provide the security fence and the power line and pole from the panels to the electrical room.

Smith stated that the goal is to have everything ready to go by the next meeting, the equipment is available to get this all done in 2023. He said he spoke with Kevin Yeppsen, the President of CSB. Yeppsen's text stated that the board needs to move very quickly on this if they plan to have it done in 2023. Yeppsen stated he had seen the schedule for CEDG and it is filling up fast and has saved us a spot. The project will take about four months to get everything started. Middleton stated that CEDG is using state of the art materials for their projects. Smith stated that he will have a rough estimate of what the actual cost to the Village will be by the next meeting.

Old Business – Nothing at this time.

With no other business to come before the board, Stull made a motion to adjourn, Christensen second the motion and on roll call vote, all voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Tiffany Miller
Village Clerk