

WALNUT VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES

Monday, December 16, 2024

The meeting with the President and Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00pm on Monday, December 16th, 2024 by President Rosenthal in the Village Hall in the Village of Walnut, Illinois.

President Rosenthal directed the Treasurer to call roll, Trustees Bryan Arteberry, Leland Johnston, Brian Smith, John Middleton and Melissa Dye were present. Trustee Brian Stull was absent.

President Rosenthal asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the Tuesday, December 3, 2024 meeting. With no corrections or additions, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Johnston, seconded by Smith. On roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer Wolf presented the accounts payable in the amount of \$13,831.88. A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Dye, seconded by Arteberry. On roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

President Rosenthal turned it over to Treasurer Wolf to discuss the Conxxus quotes. Treasurer Wolf explained that the Public Works building bill was increasing significantly with Mediacom due to the end of our contract and their promotional pricing. The upcoming bill with Mediacom will be \$352.28/month and the cost, by switching to Conxxus, would decrease this monthly bill to \$163.00/month. Treasurer Wolf also stated that she contacted Mediacom and inquired about the Sewer plant phone and internet bill. Mediacom said that their promotional pricing had ended but they could do a one-time special price of \$174.99 for 6 months for internet only. Treasurer Wolf locked in that price and cancelled the phone line at the Sewer plant. Motion to switch both accounts, Sewer plant and Public Works building, from Mediacom to Conxxus was made by Arteberry, seconded by Smith. On roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

Superintendent Minks stated that he had received notice from Frontier Communications that they are working on plans to install fiber in the Village city limits in the near future. He explained that the process will be similar to the fiber that was installed previously with Conxxus.

Next, Superintendent Minks stated that the Village has sent letters to the business owners stating that snow removal in front of their business will be their responsibility to remove. Superintendent Minks has spoken to numerous other individuals about snow removal, such as what has been done in the previous years but was unable to obtain such. Discussion was had about potential future ways to remedy this such as purchasing a blower attachment for the Village Kubota tractor, especially for clearing the sidewalk to the school. Minks stated that the Village does have an ordinance in place stating that it is the business and homeowner's responsibility to remove the snow on the sidewalks in front of the owned property.

Finance Committee – Nothing at this time.

Streets & Alleys – Nothing at this time.

Water & Sewer - Nothing at this time.

Garbage – Committee will meet after the end of this year to discuss the upcoming contract.

Law & Order – President Rosenthal stated that the committee met before the regular Board meeting and discussed the direction of our police department going forward regarding part time vs. full time police chief and body camera mandates.

Cemetery – Nothing at this time.

Local Improvements – The committee met on December 10th, 2024 to discuss the sidewalk and street lighting project, safe routes to school, watermain and street work in the “40” and lead line replacement. Matt Hansen provided charts for project cost and funding, debt service projection in the Water/Sewer fund and projected balances of our MFT fund. Conversation was had on if and how we move forward on financing the sidewalk and street lighting project. President Rosenthal stated that he has had conversation with Rob LeSage about a “general obligation bond” which is when the Village can go to a local lending institution and borrow money against our books. President Rosenthal then stated for phase one of the sidewalk and streetlight replacement, the Village portion to pay is \$268,641.53. No MFT funds can be used on this project because the timing does not work, we are too close to bidding, starting and completion, but MFT funds may be used for future phases. Willett, Hofmann and Associates recommend accepting the bid from Stenstrom Excavation and Blacktop Group from Rockford, Illinois. President Rosenthal reminded everyone that just like streets and alleys, the sidewalks and streetlights are the responsibility of the Village. With the bids coming in higher than expected, the question was raised whether there would be additional funding that we could apply for and there is not. Superintendent Minks brought up residential sidewalks and replacement of certain ones vs. the replacement of Main Street sidewalks to which Trustee Middleton responded the Main Street sidewalks take priority due to the amount of foot traffic they endure. A bond will not be used for Phase one of the sidewalk and street lighting replacement. A bond may be used in the future for the “40” street reconstruction project. The Village is in better financial condition than in previous years. Trustee Middleton stated that the committee does recommend the Village move forward and accept the bid for Phase one from Stenstrom Excavation & Blacktop Group from Rockford Illinois, seconded by Johnston. On roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

Old Business – Nothing at this time.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dye, seconded by Smith. On roll call, all in favor, motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:54pm on December 16, 2024.