

August 18, 2015

**State of Illinois
County of Cook
Village of Stickney**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stickney Village Hall, 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:
Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White**

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Milenkovic, to approve the minutes of the previous regular session on Tuesday, August 4, 2015.

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White
Nays: None
Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.**

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos that the bills, approved by the various committees of the Board, be approved for payment, and to approve warrants which authorize the Village Treasurer to draw checks to pay the bills, to be signed by the authorized signers, as provided for by the Ordinances of the Village of Stickney.

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White
Nays: None
Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.**

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to accept the report from the Illinois Department of Revenue for sales tax collected for the month of May, 2015 indicating the sum of \$36,650.60.

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White
Nays: None
Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.**

Illinois Department of Transportation for the month of July has been permanently held up pending the General Assembly passing the budget. Trustee White called the Illinois Department of Transportation to inquire.

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to Approve Resolution 18-2015, "Resolution Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act."

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to approve the August 22, 2015 Block Party on 4400 Block of Grove.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Trustee Milenkovic moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to approve the August 29, 2015 Block Party on Lorraine Terrace between Wisconsin and Wenonah.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

The mayor introduced Chris Ganschow of CW Consulting and Bob Molaro of Robert S. Associates. Mr. Ganschow explained that he worked with our previous lobbyist, Mark Fary. Mr. Fary resigned for a better opportunity. Mr. Ganschow wanted to bring us up-to-date as to what is happening in Springfield. We learned that 90% of the budget is clicking along even though a budget has not been passed. He has had some luck working with our senator, Martin Sandoval, who secured \$200,000.00 for infrastructure improvements to the police department. In addition, they assisted with the OSLAD grant for the Children's Park. The check for \$120,000.00 for that grant arrived recently.

Mr. Molaro was introduced. It was explained that he serves as the lobbyist to Hawthorn Race Course. We learned that Mr. Fary's wife is now a commissioner on the Sports Authority Board. There is a rule that you can't lobby and have a spouse on a sports authority board. The lobbying contract is now in Chris Ganschow's name. The next six to nine months will be a watershed in Springfield. When he served in Springfield, they didn't allow the comptroller to write checks until a budget was passed. This caused pressure on the General Assembly to pass a budget. This time around, a judge in Saint Clare County decided that the comptroller could write checks. Therefore, the stalemate is ongoing. The governor wants certain issues in return passed on his agenda. We may not have a budget deal until the state could run out of money in February or March.

The good news is we are in the best position to pass a casino bill. The bill will show revenue sharing. Cicero and Berwyn are involved. They are trying to stop the Stickney Township Health Department from getting 25%. He explained that there will be no lobbying contract in writing. If we are having a tough time, we can call and skip a month and we won't have to pay. They feel that Stickney needs representation in Springfield.

Trustee White explained that this is the first report that we have ever seen in the past year. He asked where all the other reports are. Mr. Molaro told us that their reports went to the mayor. The mayor acknowledged receiving them via email. When Chris Ganschow was last here with Mark Fary we were told we were going to be updated. Trustee White enlightened them that we received none of those reports. Trustee Savopoulos asked the mayor what did she do with those reports. She answered that she kept them on her computer. She did say she did read them. Trustee White never felt that we needed a lobbyist because he felt that they didn't do anything. Now he knows that we just weren't being informed. He feels that we do need representation in Springfield. He continued to say that we need to move forward. With this gaming bill moving forward, we will need help with that. We can't be left in the dark. It is not fair to the board and the taxpayers. Trustee Lazansky asked if bigger municipalities could push us out? Robert Molaro summed it up by explaining that no matter where the revenue sharing goes, they think that Stickney should get reimbursed for anything they paid out or spent, and then others would split it at a rate. He said they would talk with the other towns and find an agreement.

Mr. Molaro again apologized for the misconnection of them not sending the reports to the trustees. Trustee White then voiced his dissatisfaction over the fact that over twenty reports were sent and not one of them made it to the attention of the trustees. We have to be fiscally responsible. He personally had false ideas over what they were doing.

The clerk asked about a legislative bill number for the gaming bill. Mr. Molaro explained that it will be a completely new bill number.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to use their lobbying service on the village's behalf.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Mr. Molaro confirmed that the fee would be \$1,500.00. The contract is on a month to month base. Mr. Molaro said it would not be more than the 30 days. Attorney Del Galdo said that there was a written contract with a termination clause in there. You are not obligating yourself to one year. There is an out clause. The attorney said that if the board approves it tonight they would review it.

Illinois Energy Aggregation consultants Robert Streit and Dennis Brennan passed out rate sheets of market pricing to the board members. At the August 4, 2015 meeting they asked permission from the board to go out for market pricing. They came back with fixed pricing for 12, 24, 30 and 36 months. They also provided fixed monthly rate fees. It was explained that it allows some suppliers to lower rates. These rates are fixed for the life of the contract. Whereas, Com Ed rates are variable and can and do change every month. During the past 12 months Com Ed's rates have averaged 7.18/Kwh. The rates we are quoting for 12, 24 and 30 months are lower

than Com Ed. Com Ed is expected to rise into the 8/Kwh range. They are recommending the 30 months offer of 6.20/Kwh with a \$4.95 monthly fee. These prices are only guaranteed for 24 hours. Trustee Lazansky verified that we are locked in at the 6.20/Kwh rate.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to authorize with Illinois Energy to negotiate on behalf of the village and secure the 30 month rate of 6.20/Kwh with a \$4.95 monthly fee.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

After the vote a question was raised concerning Stickney joining with another municipality to receive a better rate. We have joined with unincorporated Stickney Township but they will approve their own contract.

The next agenda item was the appointment to fill the vacancy in the office of trustee of the Village of Stickney. The clerk explained that there was no motion to speak to this item and we would go on to the next item.

The mayor told us that there will now be a discussion on Home Rule Sales Tax rates. The treasurer verified that our Home Rule Sales Tax is 1%. Trustee White told us that we have the opportunity to raise our Home Rule Sales Tax 0.25% on July 1st or January 1st of any year. Trustee Jeff White explained that in anticipation of our funds diminishing we are looking for ways to increase our funds without raising taxes on the homeowners. The treasurer, Kurt Kasnicka, explained that every month we get a report on our state sales tax from the state. It amounts to approximately \$38,000. Approximately half of that figure, approximately \$20,000, is received separately from the Home Rule Sales Tax. If you increased it by 0.25% it would bring in \$5,000.00. Trustee Lazansky referred back to comments of no new taxes made at many meetings. He felt that Stickney residents that shop at the Jewel would be penalized. He would rather see his property taxes go up by .005 would bring in \$60.00 yearly. He felt the Home Rule tax was nickeling and diming people to death. He would rather see raising the vehicle license fee. He felt that the twenty dollars we charge is too low. Trustee Savopoulos argued that the sales tax would be paid by everyone shopping in the area. There was much discussion held between Trustee Lazansky and an audience member over property taxes. Other comments were made against raising property taxes. Trustee White suggested that we think ahead. Someone asked if we would cut the taxes once we get the tax money the state is withholding. Trustee Lazansky suggested a carryout tax. Trustee White explained that we are behind times with our taxes. He offered to research what other home rule towns charge in their taxes. He would bring this information to the next meeting. The clerk asked if the state was going to freeze property taxes. The governor is considering freezing taxes for a two year period. The lobbyist told us that the governor would not freeze taxes unless he gets some of his agenda passed. According to Attorney Del Galdo, further discussion can be held on this subject when one of the board members and the mayor want it to be placed back on an agenda.

A discussion was held concerning a stop sign placed on 40th and Euclid. Trustee White asked the Chief of Police to research the need for such a sign. There is a stop sign when you are heading south. The trustee enforced the need of an additional sign because of a preschool on the corner, a large tree blocking the sight line heading to the east and residents complaining to him. Police Chief John Sladetz told us that there hasn't been an accident there within the last twelve months. However, he does agree with Trustee White's explanation of the need. He felt it is a good spot for a sign. He included the fact that the senior center is right there. Trustee Savopoulos has some close calls at that intersection. Trustee White asked Attorney Del Galdo if he would write an ordinance for our next meeting.

TRUSTEES REPORTS: Trustee Hrejsa gave the fire department report for the month of July, 2015 as follows: Ambulance calls; 69: Mutual Aid Calls; 10: Service Calls; 4: Fire Calls; 10: Hazardous Condition Calls; 0: Motor Vehicle Accidents; 5: Working Fires; 0: Brush/Trash Fire Calls; 1: Car Fires; 0: Total calls for the month of July: 99; Total calls for 2015: 632

In addition, she announced the Fall Festival to be held on September 12, 2015. She gave a line-up of activities. Fireworks will follow. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District will raffle off a rain barrel.

Trustee Milenkovic informed us that the FAA has awarded another \$10 million grant for sound insulation around Midway Airport. In addition, Midway will receive an additional \$210,000.00 to purchase new equipment. Trustee Milenkovic is still communicating with Congressman Lipinski's office concerning the train whistles. The trustee also thanked people for donating to the troops.

Trustee Savopoulos told us that Com Ed has started working on the east side of town to repair the insulation of their power lines that are underground. They are currently fixing our curbs.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to accept the treasurer's report for the month of May, 2015.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Police Chief John Sladetz informed us that the railroad crossing on Harlem Avenue in Berwyn will be down for repairs starting August 27 and lasting until approximately September 7. They are shutting down Harlem Avenue at Ogden Avenue. The projected detour route was provided.

Fire Chief Larry Meyer mentioned that bad weather is approaching.

Treasurer Kurt Kasnicka announced that we received the check for the park grant in the amount of a little over \$120,000.00. It has been deposited in our Capital Repair

Fund for future capital improvements. That is where the money originated from. The video gaming funds are being held up by the state as well as the motor fuel tax. The only other item he hears is being held back is the wireless distribution from the state which is in the \$3,000.00 range. This goes to pay back the 911 fund. An explanation was given over the income tax revenue item. The governor talked about slashing it. Currently, last week the Illinois Department of Revenue issued a voucher. After that, the Illinois Comptroller will issue a warrant. Then the money will get distributed. With the warrant, we actually did get one month's income tax. We are actually two months behind. Hopefully that money will flow without a reduction.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS from Sokol Stickney took up a considerable amount of time.

Trustee Savopoulos moved, duly seconded by Trustee White to adjourn into closed session at 8:32 p.m. This was for discussion only regarding probable and imminent litigation pursuant to Section 2 (c) (11) for the Open Meeting Act. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11).

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Lazansky to return to regular session at 9:45 p.m.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Hrejsa, Lazansky, Milenkovic, Savopoulos and White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

There being no further business, Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee White that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk

Approved by me this 3rd of September, 2015

Deborah E. Morelli, Village Mayor