

December 17, 2013

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

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in regular session on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 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 De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos and Sleigher
Absent: White**

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Gomez, to approve the minutes of the previous regular session on Tuesday, December 3, 2013.

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos, and Sleigher
Absent: White
Nays: None
Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.**

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Sleigher 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: De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos, and Sleigher
Absent: White
Nays: None
Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.**

Trustee Savopoulos moved, duly seconded by Trustee Gomez to accept the report from the Illinois Department of Revenue for sales tax collected for the month of September, 2013 indicating the sum of \$32,213.76.

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos, and Sleigher
Absent: White
Nays: None
Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.**

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to accept the report from the Illinois Department of Transportation motor fuel tax for the month of November, 2013 indicating the sum of \$12,788.01.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos, and Sleigher

Absent: White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Trustee Savopoulos moved, duly seconded by Trustee Gomez to concur with Mayor Morelli's recommendation of Lauren Plahm of the Odelson Sterk, LTD Law Firm as the Village of Stickney Adjudicator.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Gomez, Savopoulos, and Sleigher

Absent: White

Nays: De Leshe and Lazansky

Mayor said, "I will be the tie breaker." "She agreed and voted yes."

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Sleigher, to pass and approve Ordinance 2013-13, "The 2013 Tax Levy Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2013 and Ending April 30, 2014."

Prior to the preceding action, an enormous amount of discussion was held. Attorney Kreger initially commented that it is not a motion to reconsider (as stated in the agenda) the ordinance because the ordinance has been changed somewhat. The clerk stated that you cannot vote on it because it isn't correctly stated in the agenda. Mr. Kreger said that there were changes requested. He pointed out three plans. Trustee Savopoulos said that you can't make an amendment. Kreger said, "I don't call it an amendment." "There were changes that were requested." Trustee Savopoulos stated, "This is what was voted down before." Kreger said there are three different ways to look at it. He went on to say that you have a responsibility to run this municipality so someone has to pass this tax levy. Without a tax levy you can't collect taxes.

Discussion was held at this point after a second was made. Treasurer Kurt Kasnicka explained that there are three plans given: "The original tax levy ordinance;" "A revised tax levy ordinance with no increases in taxes where the police pension was reduced to the amount of bond and interest was already reduced with no increase in taxes"; and, "A third option where there is a decrease, the general fund stays at no change and where there is no change in police pension fund and the bond and interest where there is a small decrease of \$6,880 which is already predetermined by bond ordinances".

Donald Kreger reminded them they can only pass one and wanted a better understanding of the plans. Trustee De Leshe recommended that they number the plans as 1, 2, and 3.

The following is the exact copy that was distributed and explained by the treasurer:

#1. Original Tax Levy Ordinance

Based on Ordinance #2013-10 Annual budget and Appropriation Ordinance; Increase in taxes of \$2,907.00 which represents a 0.09% increase. (This plan could add \$.90 to your tax bill)

#2. Revised Tax Levy Ordinance (No Increase)

No increase in taxes. (They lowered the police pension a bit so there is no increase in taxes.)

#3. Revised Tax Levy Ordinance (Decrease)

Decrease in taxes of \$6,880.00 (There is no increase in the police pension fund so there is no increase.)

Conversation ensued for nearly another half hour. Donald Kreger suggested that something needed to be done tonight otherwise there would have to be a special meeting. Trustee Savopoulos questioned if there were any cuts made. The treasurer said they always try to cut. Right now we are looking at the tax levy tonight. He went on to say that right now we are ready to go into deficit \$550,000 so if you are going to start decreasing the taxes.... He said that there was an increase of less than 3% in the budget. Trustee Savopoulos said his figures show an increase in the budget by \$500,000.

Donald Kreger reminded people that 75% of the total budget is dedicated to police, fire and other employees. (other than water). Trustee Savopoulos said that there is a spending problem not a taxing problem. Kreger said the budget was already approved. Trustee Savopoulos remarked that a couple of months ago we talked about the Bob Cat purchase. At that time we were told that we had the money for. We paid cash for it. Now you are telling us that we don't have the money. Kasnicka said that the money was already in place in the Capital Project's Fund. This next year we are going to have to have a special meeting so that everyone is included in the budget discussions. Kasnicka claimed that spending is actually down.

Donald Kreger said that salaries are all locked in with the unions. He said that we are home rule and your tax can be levied as one tax if you wanted to. We separate it. The pensions are a general obligation whether you levy for it or not. You need to sit down and talk about the budget. This levy is less than half of your income sources.

Kurt Kasnicka reminded us that the General Fund is no increase, the Bond and Interest Fund is locked in, the only variable is the Police Pension Fund. He then said that he got the actuarial as of April 30, 2013. The funding dropped from 39% to 38 1/2% funded. We have been stuck in the mid to upper 30s for a number of years. No matter of what you do it only equates to about a buck a household.

Trustee Sleighter asked if they could do a one-time only tax levy increase. He felt that an increase is hard to reduce. Kreger said that this municipality levies for dollars. They don't consider your rates. The rates are caused by how much is levied. He said that 65% of your rates are caused by the schools. The point is, we are not going to increase our dollar amounts of taxes in any significant way in any of the three you pick. This is a one-time levy on next year's taxes. If your assessed evaluation goes up,

you will probably pay more taxes but not to this village. This village is home rule. We can't levy rates on people. We levy dollars.

Kurt Kasnicka reminded that this is the 2013 tax levy collectable in 2014. Kreger explained that it is a one year levy and next year there is another levy. It is up to (you) to lower the budget.

Trustee Savopoulos said that if we are not willing to cut, why should we ask the residents to cut their household budget. We are not cutting anything. Trustee Sleighter felt that we should straighten this out right now.

Kreger stated that your budget has already been approved this year. What caused it to go up is over a million dollars in reduction in one taxpayer's property. Nobody did anything about that. Kreger said the reduction dates back to the 2006 tax year. We got a notice from the County Clerk a year ago. Trustee Savopoulos asked if we knew of this in May when we were doing the budget. Kreger said that in May we lost some \$300,000 for the last calendar year 2011 or 2012. Kasnicka explained that there were two tax years that were refunded in 2012. They were slightly bigger than normal. In 2013, there were two more tax years that were refunded. Trustee Savopoulos questioned why the budget was increased when you knew that this money was lost. Kreger felt that there must have been some sort of notice sent. Somebody must have known.

Trustee Lazansky read us his property tax bills. He recommended that people appeal their property taxes at the assessor's office. An audience member confirmed that her property value has gone down from \$500,000 to \$180,000. All she could get off on her taxes was \$100. She doesn't want her taxes going up.

Trustee De Leshe questioned the #2 option and if it means no increase in taxes. Kasnicka commented that how it works in the Village of Stickney, is you levy a dollar amount. There are changes in the assessed evaluations. Kreger clarified that business values are assessed at a higher rate by the county. If you own a home, it is 16% times the equalization factor. If you own business property it is somewhere between 35% to 39% times the equalization factor. The rate is the same across the board. The assessed evaluation of this municipality has not really moved much in the last ten years. The businesses get hit much harder. There was a considerable amount of conversation held at this time.

The clerk asked Treasurer Kurt Kasnicka what the Illinois Department of Insurance actuarial recommended \$667,000. If we followed their recommendations we would have to add another \$67,000. Our actuarial, Tim Sharp, recommendations are less at \$523,000, now it dropped to \$515,000 and now it is up to \$545,000. Donald Kreger reminded us the people are living longer.

Donald Kreger asked that the original motion be withdrawn. Trustee Sleighter withdrew the second motion. Trustee Lazansky withdrew his motion.

Trustee De Leshe moved, duly seconded by Trustee Sleighter to pick option number 2 to not increase taxes.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos, and Sleigher

Absent: White

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote, Trustee De Leshe enforced that this is 0.00% of the total of all funds. Lazansky stated that he voted Aye but would rather have option #1.

The next agenda item is to take from the table, Resolution 14-2013. Trustee Savopoulos stated that he would not remove the motion from the table. This resolution would increase loss of bond and interest fund.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Morelli gave Christmas greetings to all.

CLERKS REPORT:

The Clerk explained a new feature she will be highlighting upon during each board meeting during this centennial year. She will be reading passages from the minutes written over the last 100 years. This is the last installment for this Centennial year.

Fifteenth Installment of the Centennial Minutes

It was on April 19, 2006 that Stanley T. Kuser Jr. was appointed the Village Attorney and Village Prosecutor.

On April 19, 2007 Trustee Roll moved to accept the recommendation of Frega and Associates and award the bid for the new village hall project to Poulos Construction Company in the amount of \$1,732,000.00.

Trustee Dolezal moved on September 17, 2008 to approve and pass Ordinance 2008-15 to provide for the issue of \$6,400,000.00 in General Obligation Bonds, and for the levy of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to Pay the Principal and Interest on said Bonds.

On May 6, 2009 the newly elected village officials received their oath of office. President O'Reilly reconvened the meeting. Audrey McAdams was sworn in as the new Village Clerk; Cody Mares, Deborah Morelli and Scott Zeedyk were the newly elected Trustees. The Police Chief was Joseph Kretch and Deputy Chief was Frank Figueroa. The Fire Chief remains Larry Meyers.

Trustee James Roll died while still in office on July 13, 2009. Jeff Walik was appointed on September 1, 2009 to fulfill the vacancy with his term expiring in May 2011. Jeff Walik spearheaded the planting of 80 trees and earned Tree City USA honors for Stickney.

In October 2010 Stickney received the 2010 Census Award in appreciation for our community involvement in conducting our census activities. The Village enhanced its population to 6,786. It is a change of +10.4% over the 2000 census.

Trustee Cody Mares resigned effective May 15, 2012 and Monty Horne was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term which will expire in May 2013.

Trustee Fred Schimel resigned effective July 1, 2012 due to retirement. Sam Savopoulos was appointed on August 7, 2012 to fulfill the unexpired term which expired in May 2013.

It was during 2012 that a soccer/football field was construction. Our first Youth Football League was organized. The Jason Bruscato dog park was opened. Stickney purchased the old Sokol Hall and now has a new Recreation Center. Over 50 acres of park space was acquired.

Trustee Scott Zeedyk resigned effective January 15, 2013. Lee Torres was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term which expired in May 2013.

It was during 2013 that the Village of Stickney celebrated their Centennial Anniversary. There was a three-day carnival celebration. Banners were hung from light posts throughout the village. A Gala dinner dance was held at the Hawthorne Race Track.

It was on May 7, 2013 that the newly elected village officials received the oath of office. Mayor Deborah Morelli reconvened the meeting. Audrey McAdams was sworn in as the Village Clerk; David DeLesch, James Lazansky and Sam Savopoulos were the newly elected Trustees. Martha Gomez was appointed by the Mayor to fulfill the unexpired term which will expire in May 2015.

Trustee Jeff Walik resigned effective October 31, 2013. Patrick Sleighter was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term which expires in May, 2015.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: All the trustees present gave Christmas and New Year's greetings.

Trustee Gomez Trustee Gomez gave the Fire Department Report for the month of November, 2013 there were a total of 97 calls: Ambulance calls; 67: Mutual Aid/Automatic Aid to other towns; 7: Service Calls; 6: Fire Calls; 13: Motor Vehicle Accidents; 3: Working Fires; 1: In the year of 2013, the Stickney Fire Department has responded to a total of 1,152 calls.

Trustee Lazansky gave the police report for the month of November, 2013. The total number of calls for service; 1,893: Total number of E911 calls received; 349: Arrest by type: Traffic: 189; Village Ordinance Offences: 43; Warrants and Complaints: 12; Parking violations: 251; Total number of arrests/citations issued: 495; Total number of squad miles: 8,251; Total amount of gasoline used: 923; Average gas mileage/squad: 8.941 mpg.

Ordinance Activity Report for the month of November, 2013. Ordinance Investigations: 376, Business License Investigations: 5, Violation Notices Issued: 5, Miscellaneous Details: 162, S.L.O. Tickets: 0, Parking Citations Issued: 65, Booted Vehicles: 2

Trustee Sleighter we can get things done here unlike Washington. We came to a conclusion tonight.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Public Works Supervisor Jeff Boyajian reminded us that we have had some snow parking issues. He gave the parking rules. He suggested that we remind our neighbors. The garbage pick-ups are affected by the by the holidays.

Deputy Police Chief Rich Jaczak gave the uniform crime reports for our police department. Our crime rates are very low. Our traffic arrests have gone up 30%. The DUIs are through the roof and the suspended/revoked licenses. We are in the process of seizing a tractor. He suggested that we watch over our neighbors. If you

see something wrong. He warned that people keep an eye on their car when they are warming it up. Donald Kreger asked about the police exam is on January 11, 2014. He wanted to know if the Stickney Recreation Center was large enough to accommodate them. There are approximately 63 applicants. He was told that there is plenty of space to make things comfortable.

Fire Chief Larry Mayer warned people to fire safety. He referred to a fire accident here some years ago when a man caught his robe on fire while reaching over the stove.

Treasurer Kurt Kasnicka stated that holidays will cause the offices to be closed on Friday, December 20, in the afternoon due to the Christmas luncheon. On December 24 & 25 and January 1, the offices will be closed.

There being no further business, Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Gomez that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk

Approved by me this of , 2014

Deborah E. Morelli, Village Mayor