

March 1, 2011

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

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in Regular Session on Tuesday,

**March 1, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Stickney Village Hall, Council Chambers, 6533
W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Cook County, Illinois**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:
Trustees Lazansky, Mares, Morelli, Walik and Zeedyk
Trustee Schimel was absent**

**Trustee Morelli moved, duly seconded by Trustee Zeedyk to approve the minutes of the
previous Regular Session of the Board of Trustees held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011.**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: Trustees Lazansky, Mares, Morelli, Walik and Zeedyk
Absent: Trustee Schimel
Nays: None
President O'Reilly declared the motion carried.**

**Trustee Morelli moved, duly seconded by Trustee Mares, that the bills, approved by the
various committees of the Board, be approved for payment, and to approve warrants which
authorizes 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 Lazansky, Mares, Morelli, Walik and Zeedyk
Absent: Trustee Schimel
Nays: None
President O'Reilly declared the motion carried.**

**Trustee Walik moved duly seconded by Trustee Lazansky, to approve the engineer request
for release of \$432,500 of ERP funds for 2010 MFT/ERP Street Resurfacing MFT Section No.
09-00055-00-RS. There is a credit of \$46,353.20 because of the cost running lower on a
previous project with J. Nardulli Concrete.**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: Trustees Lazansky, Mares, Morelli, Walik and Zeedyk
Absent: Trustee Schimel
Nays: None
President O'Reilly declared the motion carried.**

Trustee Walik moved, duly seconded by Trustee Morelli to approve the Preliminary Construction/Engineering Services Agreement for MFT Funds for 2011 Street Resurfacing MFT Section No. 11-00056-00RS and DCEO Grant No. 10-203302 (This appropriates \$200,000 of MFT funds, DCEO Grant funds of \$500,000 and Bond Funds of \$25,000 for this project.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Lazansky, Mares, Morelli, Walik and Zeedyk

Absent: Trustee Schimel

Nays: None

President O'Reilly declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote, President O'Reilly explained that this will be Phase IV of the road project.

CLERK'S REPORT: A report was given on a notice sent by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency of a Lyons Recycling Center which will be located at 4226 S. Lawndale Avenue in Lyons. It will handle Composting, Recycling/Reclamation, Landscape/Yard Waste, Asphalt Shingles and General C & C.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: Trustee Lazansky addressed the board meeting by starting off by referring to a previous member of the audience who used to ask questions pertaining to high legal cost that were occurring. That woman is no longer out there. He asked for an explanation why we spent close to \$40,000 in legal bills for the month of January. He was watching out for our taxpayer's money. President O'Reilly stated that there were two big important projects going on. One was our police negotiations. Trustee Lazansky learned that the case is done and up to the arbitrator. The other project is Trustee Schimel's Coyote Club project. President O'Reilly stated that it is now the 23rd court appearance. They got it continued again due to asbestos. The judge assured us that they better have it down prior to their next court appearance which will be sometime in March. The electoral board was also included in the billing. It cost us some \$9,000 because of objections. Trustee Lazansky then questioned if it shouldn't have come from another source. He then reminisced over what he had done some 20 years ago during an objection and the costs occurred at that time. He wanted to know what was the lawyer used for the \$9,000 fee. It was at that time that Attorney Stanley T. Kuser explained the following:

The objections were filed against the slate of three and against an individual candidate. By state law, the electoral board is composed of the mayor, clerk and the senior trustee. The attorney of the Village represents them and does all the work in preparation for the hearing, attends the hearing and drafts the decision of the board after the hearing is over. There are also expenses incurred in preparing for it. Notices have to be drafted and sent out, the Sheriff has to be notified and a summons has to be served to everyone there. Registered and certified mail has to go out. It is a cost assessed to the electoral board. It is all governmental in nature. The attorney sits and advises the electoral board and aids in the processing in hearing the complaints to the candidates. He finishes that work up and if an appeal is necessary, as was indicated in this case, he prepares the record on appeal. It is all public agency funded and public agency paid. It is not private service to any individual. It is service

to the municipality and the electoral board which is created by state law. All of those hours that you will see in the bill are able to be identified, each and every one of them.....he then elaborated on his billing. He stated that his bills are much different than the bills, "Mr. Lazansky", presented by the past administration and counsel. Those bills were called "block" bills. The bill would say, "This case as an example" and "This case as an example" and a dollar amount at the end. You would not know what day and what the task was. He injected that he brought two years worth of bills that he represented this board under this administration with him today. The bills show each and every item, the hours are there to the quarter hour.

Mr. Kuser then addressed the large number of dollars spent regarding demolition fees. One thing that isn't reflected on the bill is money that is recovered by his firm on behalf of the Village of Stickney for the expenses and attorney's fees paid. So, if we recovered \$120,000 or \$130,000 that was money paid into the General Fund. It does not get created to the legal item in the budget. As an example: At 4207 Gunderson Avenue, the attorney's fees were \$16,125.07. The court ordered fees recovered were \$11,445.75. This is not reflected in the bills. This is reflected in the money received by the treasurer. In 3913 S. Home Avenue, the attorney's fees were \$18,209.49. The court ordered fees were \$18,209.49. The judgment against the defendant is \$38,067.04. At 3924 Grove Avenue, the attorney's fees were \$8,006.25. The costs were \$2,893.82. The amount recovered was \$10,900.07. Concerning 4139 S. Harlem Avenue, the costs per date are \$65,202.32. He has every intention of petitioning, which they have done, and expect to have the judge order the payment of the fees in that amount or whatever amount when the case is over. And lastly, the property located at 4119 and 4121 S. Harlem, the attorney fees were \$9,776.35. The court costs were \$5,567.02 and the total judgment against the defendant was \$15,343.37. This sums up his explanation of funds recovered by his firm.

It was at this point that Mr. Lazansky thanked Mr. Kuser for giving a report. Attorney Kuser announced, "I am not done yet. I believe in giving complete answers." Trustee Lazansky responded that, "At least now the residents will know".

Attorney Kuser then elaborated on the case with 23 court appearances. Twenty-one of those court appearances are required because the defendant in this case and his lawyers have not followed court orders. Technically they could be found in contempt. We have to keep going back to get that building torn down and recover the cost to the Village.

He then referred to his billings dating back to August 3, 2009, shortly after this administration took office. He explained he believes in "sharing the pain" he discounted the bills in excess of \$10,000 which was deducted from his bills. He felt that this new administration needed this type of assistance and of "sharing of the pain". Mr. Kuser then stated that if there were any other question concerning his bills, he would go out to his car and bring in the folder of bills he brought with him. He would painstakingly go over them line by line, day by day, and item by item. He would explain who did what, when, for how many hours or minutes. Trustee Lazansky then said that now our residents now know where the money is going. He continued, "That was his major concern about bringing it up". "Not that you are doing a job and writing it properly, which you are". "Sometime people just see

that the money is being spent and not seeing how it goes". Trustee Lazansky then stated that Attorney Kuser did an excellent job.

Trustee Morelli moved, duly seconded by Trustee Mares to accept the treasurer's report for the month of December, 2010.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Lazansky, Mares, Morelli, Walik and Zeedyk

Absent: Trustee Schimel

Nays: None

President O'Reilly declared the motion carried.

Trustee Walik reported an Earth Day celebration on April 9, from 9:00 to 12:00. The plan was to clean up our parks and possibly plant some flowers. He requested help from Scout groups, Little League and volunteers. There will be a luncheon afterwards. Look for details in the Neighborhood News.

Trustee Walik then read an extensive detail of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, School of Police Staff and Command graduation. He went on to describe the graduation requirements of Deputy Chief Frank Figueroa from the ten-week program. This is upper-level college instruction. A total of eight units of credit were earned. Deputy Chief Figueroa started as an auxiliary officer in 1996 as a dispatcher. In 1999 he became a full-time police officer after attending the police academy.

Trustee Zeedyk gave the police report for the month of February, 2011. The total number of calls for service: 1,786, Total number of E911 calls received: 351
Arrest by type: Traffic: 197, Village Ordinance Offences: 35, Warrants and Complaints: 10
Parking violations: 184, Total number of arrests/citations issued: 426
Total number of squad miles: 13,866, Total amount of gasoline used: 1,382 gallons
Average gas squad mileage: 10.03328 mpg

The Ordinance report for the month of February, 2011 was. The total number of ordinance investigations: 34, business investigations: 0, Violation Notices issued: 11, Miscellaneous details: 16, S.L.O. tickets: 0, Adjudication hours: 135

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Chief Meyer provided us with information on a new state-of-the-art air monitor obtained by the fire department that checks the air for four different types of gases. The cost was \$699 with a docking station to calibrate it every day. The Firefighter's Association also provided half of the cost. Another item obtained was a thermo-imaging camera with a charging unit located in the fire engine. This augments the department to two units. A donation was obtained from Motion Industries of a laser thermometer.

Deputy Police Chief Frank Figueroa elaborated on his research paper for the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, School of Police Staff and Command graduation. The subject he chose was “An Effective Field Training and Evaluation Program for the Stickney

Police Department Probationary Officers”. We were provided a handout of his report. We learned that prior to taking this course; the department had no procedures in place for this training. He showed us a hefty training manual he created. There was an extensive explanation of his research project. The recruit training will take a minimum of 12 weeks which can be extended if needed. The goal is to develop highly trained and motivated police officers capable of meeting or exceeding the standards required by the Stickney Police Department.

In other police department business, Deputy Police Chief Figueroa reported on an incident that took place on February 25, at approximately 8:49 p.m. when a female resident was dropped off at 43rd and Maple. She was walking home and inadvertently walked past her house. When she turned around she found a male black subject approximately 5’10’ to 6 foot tall with a stocky build wearing a brown knit hat and wearing a black jacket. The subject startled her and she told him “excuse me” and stepped to her right when the subject stepped in front of her. This happened again and he blocked her path again. The subject then reached into his pocket to bring out a silver shiny object. She started screaming yelling for help. The subject then ran west bound going through 4314 Maple. At no time did the subject say anything to her. She did feel that he did have a knife but was unsure. Officers did canvas the area and spoke to residents but never found the subject.

On February 28, at approximately 9:25, our department was asked to do a well-being check in the 4400 of Wisconsin. The reporting subject had gone past her mother’s home and observed her brother’s vehicle in the driveway with the engine running with a garden hose taped to the exhaust with hose running into the vehicle through a cracked window. When the police arrived they found the subject had locked himself in the car and had blankets covering the windows. Officers then spent over an hour trying to get the subject to exit the vehicle but the subject was holding a knife to his throat threatening suicide if the officers entered his car. The subject then lit the inside of the vehicle on fire with his cigarette forcing the officers to take action by breaking the window of the vehicle to force entry before the fire got out of control. The subject who still had the knife in his hand had to be tasered in order for the officers to finally gain entry into the vehicles. The fire was then extinguished and the subject was taken to the hospital for psychiatric evaluation. The fire department was staged one block away during the entire incident. Deputy Chief Figueroa did remind the audience that if they ever come across this type of situation of an emergency nature to contact 911 immediately. Don’t take matters into your own hands and try to talk to the person. Call the police immediately.

Last night the police department completed the second round of compliance checks as part of their participation in the Illinois Liquor Commission’s “Kids Can’t Buy em Here” tobacco enforcement program. We are pleased to announce that we received 100% compliance from our local tobacco retailers who all refused sales to a minor with no ID. The establishments will be notified that they passed.

Public Works Supervisor Joe Lopez announced that street sweeping will be postponed for a few weeks until the weather breaks.

There being no further business, Trustee Zeedyk moved, duly seconded by Trustee Walik that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which, said Board of Trustees adopted the motion at 7:38 p.m. and President O'Reilly declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Clerk

Approved by me, this 3rd day of March, 2011

Daniel O'Reilly, President