

Plainfield Township Board of Trustees Minutes from September 12, 2007

This item was tabled because Vickey Howell was not present.

A motion to table the Kiwanis Club donation request was made by Chuck Willard and seconded by Ken McCafferty. Voice vote taken. Motion carries.

B. RWK Maintenance Agreement, Jeff Reiter

Jeff Reiter of RWK presented a plan for maintenance of the computer work stations at the township administration building which addressed “malware,” anti-virus, firewall and other issues. He also advised that the township is one year away from needing a new server. Employees were asked to advise Mr. Reiter of any specific issues related to each work station.

In discussion, Assessor Rick Martin agreed to pay for his proportional share of this expense, based on number of work stations.

A motion to authorize an expenditure of up to \$2160.00 to RWK for computer network maintenance was made by Ken McCafferty and seconded by Chuck Willard. Roll call vote taken. Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

C. Plainfield Alumni Committee – Plainfield High Alumni Assn. - Banners

A motion to authorize an expenditure of \$400.00 for homecoming banners was made by Ken McCafferty and seconded by Chuck Willard. Roll call vote taken. Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

In a related issue, Chuck Willard and Rosemary Pruss agreed to participate in the township entry in the homecoming parade, with the possibility of Kim Sandstrom also joining them.

D. Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce – Ad in 2008 Community Profile Book

Andi French, Township Administrator, explained that the township has purchased ads in the “Village Profile” and on the map in the past. The last ad purchased was a half page which would cost \$1500.00 at this time. The Profile goes out to new residents and chamber members. The trustees, in general, felt the Profile ad was too expensive and that the map ad was a much more economical and useful idea.

A motion to table a decision on purchasing a “Village Profile” ad until a representative can present more information, including statistics on where the book is distributed, was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Chuck Willard. Voice vote taken. Motion carries.

E. Annual Audit Draft

Board members were asked to provide comments no later than Monday, September 17, 2007 in order to meet the publication deadline of the treasurer’s report.

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F. Sunnyland - Creek, Tree removal and Snow plowing issues

The clerk reminded the board that the Butler's complaints included flooding, trees and lack of snow plowing.

Sam Reichert said the township does not plow Gaylord Road. Plainfield Township plows all the streets between Gaylord Road and Kellogg St. Mr. Reichert said he would explain to the Butlers that Joliet, Lockport Township and Crest Hill have at various times taken over plowing parts of these streets. Mr. Reichert said he would address this with Crest Hill and advise the board who will take responsibility.

It was noted that at the last meeting, the board requested a list of specific and detailed (what blocks on what streets) complaints from the Butlers in order to address their specific areas of complaint with the proper individuals in Joliet, Crest Hill or with Sam Reichert.

G. Renwick Road One-lane Bridge Replacement

Roger Wright of Hutchison Engineering, the engineer in charge of doing the bridge, attended the meeting with Highway Commissioner Sam Reichert. Walter Manning, a Village of Plainfield Trustee, also attended this meeting. The Enterprise Newspaper and the Herald News also were represented.

Supervisor Argoudelis stated that because township officials are being asked and because numerous newspaper articles refer to "the township" as the governing body over this project, he would like the board to be updated with clarification of the responsibility and decisions related to the project. He noted that the township board has no direct authority over this project, but it is good to have public discussion and clarification.

Paul Pesavento asked Sam Reichert to summarize his position of going ahead with an at-grade bridge.

Mr. Reichert stated that his plan results in savings to the township and is aesthetically correct for the area. Regarding the train tracks just west of the bridge, he stated that an average of one train per day uses the track and the EJ&E has no plans in the foreseeable future to increase this. In addition, the maximum speed is 15-25 mph and no accidents have been reported at this location or the other Plainfield locations during the past ten to twenty years.

Supervisor Argoudelis and Ken McCafferty asked questions related to the train's schedule and route. Mr. Reichert stated that the train could travel either north or south and that the crossing would usually occur at about 8 a.m., pointing out that it is the "same set-up" as Route 30 in the Village.

Mr. Reichert stated that he will continue the project as he has scheduled it and will not consider changing to an above-grade plan. Supervisor Argoudelis asked Mr. Reichert about the Village's offer to take on the project and pay the township's part. "The previous highway commissioner invited the Village to be part of it, and if the Village does not want to be part of it, I have enough money to cover their part."

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Ken McCafferty asked where the train would cross. Mr. Reichert said it is basically the same set-up as by the Village Hall on Route 30.

Regarding the reengineering, Mr. Hutchinson stated that the high-level bridge was almost designed when Sam changed his mind. A supplemental contract for reengineering has been submitted to Mr. Reichert and is awaiting IDOT approval. Phase 1 and Phase 2 redesign will cost \$600,000.00. About three months were lost due to changes in IDOT and federal rules. Regarding the federal money, the approval is there and does not need re-approval. Mr. Hutchinson estimates 18 months for Phase 1 and Phase 2 plus 18 months for land acquisition. The cost estimate for the above grade bridge was \$12.5 million dollars. The new cost estimate for the at-grade bridge is \$9 million. It is estimated that people will be driving on the bridge in five years.

Mr. Manning pointed out that the high-level bridge was almost designed when Mr. Reichert changed his mind. The Phase 1 and Phase 2 could have been completed by the end of last year and construction could have been underway right now. "That will not happen because of one man's decision regarding aesthetics at the expense of safety." Mr. Manning was concerned that the federal portion of the costs may not be available because of this delay. He reiterated the Plainfield Village Administrator's position that the Village is not willing to finance an at-grade bridge. However, the Village Administrator is willing to pay the township's portion of the project if the township would relinquish control of the project to the Village. Mr. Manning stated that this would save the township taxpayers over \$960,000.00. The Village would then complete the stalled Phase 2 and get the bridge built. Mr. Reichert pointed out that the Village would take the money from its taxpayers. Mr. Manning said that the Village would then get the bridge they want. It would be a safer bridge with better traffic-flow.

Other questions asked to the engineer included a safety issue on a high-level bridge regarding icing. Mr. Hutchinson said that ice would not be an issue unless an immense ice storm occurred.

Mr. Willard wanted clarification with the flow of traffic. He was told the lanes will be the same with either bridge.

Mr. Willard (who is a Joliet fireman) asked if the Village's safety issue is the train. Mr. Manning said it was. Supervisor Argoudelis asked if the emergency vehicle routes are in question. Mr. Willard said his preference for that reason would be an above-grade bridge. However, he knows there are safety issues either way and the residents have a different view. He said that fire departments adapt to available routes.

Mr. Hutchinson said that whether the bridge could have been under construction right now would depend on the speed of the land acquisition. Supervisor Argoudelis asked if IDOT will rule on the bridge design. Mr. Reichert said IDOT must approve the engineer's agreement only. They would support either design plan.

Supervisor Argoudelis asked if there is an issue of getting a new approval for the Federal money for the redesign. Mr. Hutchinson, who worked for IDOT and dealt with federal approvals for 25 years, said the only way the Federal Highway Department might refuse to fund the project is if the new design cost more money than the original amount. Acquisition under Sam's plan may not need as much land.

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Mr. Willard asked how long it would take for Phase 1 and Phase 2. The answer was 18 months and possibly the same amount of time for land acquisition with possibly 2 more years for construction.

Sam Reichert explained to the board that he did not change his mind on this project overnight. He drove around and evaluated other bridges for some time. Mr. Reichert showed pictures of stone-faced bridges with bike paths underneath. The expense would have to be evaluated for these amenities.

With no further questions, Supervisor Argoudelis said he was appreciative of Sam explaining his position and bringing the engineer to the meeting.

H. Township Building Issues

A motion to authorize payment of the remaining balance owed D&M Landscaping based on a recent agreement for that company to replace damaged plants was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Ken McCafferty. Voice vote taken. Motion carries.

Supervisor Argoudelis advised that T.J. Lambrecht is doing work on Interstate 55, adjacent to the township building and has requested that a post for GPS use be temporarily installed on township property. The board had no objections.

I. Executive Session (This item moved to the end of the meeting.)

VII. REPORTS

A. Senior Coordinator

Written Report

Kathy Whalen submitted a written report in which she thanked the township for allowing the senior programs to meet in the administrative building. Recent flooding caused the River's Edge location to be unusable. September programs include Advanced Health Care Directives, Early Stroke Intervention and exercise sessions. A pot luck lunch is scheduled for September 18th and the Triad kick-off picnic will be held at the Plainfield Police Department on September 25th.

B. Disabilities

Paul Pesavento reported that the Disabilities Picnic held on the past Sunday was a great success. Eighty-five people attended. This event was moved to the Village Green due to the flooding at River's Edge and this proved to be a good venue.

C. Emergency Management Coordinator

Chuck Willard reported that when heavy rains fell two weeks ago, he, the township highway commissioner and Plainfield Emergency Operations went to full emergency status. Coordination was very good regarding road closures and sandbagging. The Village and Township worked together to accommodate whoever needed assistance. Sam Reichert immediately responded to road closures, etc. Supervisor Argoudelis commended both Sam Reichert and Chuck Willard for their response to event. Mr. Willard reported that Harris Drive did not need sandbags. (An ongoing flooding issue recently lessened due to a cooperative effort between the residents,

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Plainfield Township and the Plainfield Township Highway Department.) When asked if anything additional was needed to meet these types of weather events, Mr. Willard and Mr. Reichert asked for more sandbags, to be purchased by the Township Supervisor's office.

D. "Plainfield Township Presents"

Ken McCafferty reported that the four presentations for Alzheimers caregivers have been completed. The Will County Health Department and the Red Cross will be offering a program on smoking cessation.

E. Senior Shuttle Bus

Monika McMillen passed out the monthly review of shuttle bus activity which indicated an increase in ridership and continued success in the program. Some seniors use the bus every day and some only occasionally. Mall outings will continue to be scheduled. Supervisor Argoudelis indicated that Representative Tom Cross' effort to secure a grant for this program was not cut out of the state budget and could be as high as \$40-\$50,000 which would allow for paying off the debt on the vehicle or for operating expenses.

The township is looking into posting of advertisements inside the bus to supplement the costs. The drivers are working out great and the wheelchair lift is also working well.

The shuttle bus will continue to be housed in the highway department garage for the indefinite future.

F. Youth

No report

VIII. ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

A. Assessor

Rick Martin voiced his opposition to the school district's plan to condemn and annex a corner of Route 59 and 143rd Street for a bus barn to house 400 buses. He felt this would create traffic problems during rush hour and waste a valuable commercial site.

Mr. Martin again requested that the township obtain a credit card for hotel expenses. Supervisor Argoudelis suggested that such a card should be controlled by the township administrator.

Mr. Martin stated that, "the clerk has no expense reimbursement policy for the township." Ms. Pruss advised she has explained to the assessor that the policy of turning in receipts for expense reimbursement could have been established as far back as a century ago and that the board, which is the sole controller of reimbursement policies for the township, reiterated this policy at both the June, 2007 and July, 2007 board meetings. The policy was not changed to a per diem basis in response to Mr. Martin's requests and the "receipts submitted for reimbursement policy" was reconfirmed.

It was decided to obtain a credit card. Employees will remain liable for expenses on this card if they fail to cancel hotel rooms or follow established guidelines for hotel reimbursement.

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A motion to authorize the township administrator to obtain one credit card to be controlled solely by the township administrator was made by Chuck Willard and seconded by Paul Pesavento. Roll call vote taken. Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

B. Clerk

Rosemary Pruss advised that she is willing to stay on as clerk for one more month until November 1, 2007 because no one has been found to fill the office. The board accepted.

Ms. Pruss reported that during the recent weeding and mulching activity, 56 plants were destroyed in the township flower beds. A list has been presented to the landscaper and he has agreed to replace these plants at his expense.

Regarding the issue of Early/Absentee Voting, the township's administrative staff and the board agreed that Plainfield Township will not participate due to the extra hours and personnel requirements. The waiver filed in July, 2007 will stand.

C. Highway Commissioner

There is an ongoing problem on Farmington St. Engineers are currently working on it.

Mr. Reichert obtained assistance from the Plainfield Fire Department in providing 500 feet of hose to pump out a severely flooded home in Crystal Lawns during the recent flooding rains.

Activities performed during the past month included garbage pickup, truck maintenance and repairs, blacktopping of pot holes, sign maintenance, branch pick-up, shoulder gravel, culvert replacement, mowing and weed control, ditching, Harris Drive improvements, and emergency flood control throughout the township. Mr. Reichert also commended Chuck Willard for doing a great job during the heavy rains.

D. Trustee Comments

Paul Pesavento advised that because River's Edge is still being restored from recent flooding, the Park District has requested use of the township meeting room for a hunter safety course and also for "Dinner with Santa." The Park District agreed to pay for all security fees for these events.

E. APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion to authorize payment of \$550.00 to Naperville Excavating for gravel and spreading of the gravel in the new recycling area was made by Chuck Willard and seconded by Paul Pesavento. Roll call vote taken. Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento, Ken McCafferty – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

Total General Town Fund – A motion to approve the Town Fund for in the amount of \$59,267.11 was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Ken McCafferty. Roll call vote taken. Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

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Total Road and Bridge – A motion to approve the Road and Bridge Fund for in the amount of \$30,956.47 was made by Chuck Willard and seconded by Ken McCafferty. Roll call vote taken. Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

Total County Joint Bridge Fund – A motion to approve the Road and Bridge Fund in the amount of \$825.00 was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Chuck Willard. Paul Pesavento – Aye, Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Residents from a cul-de-sac area south of Howard Street attended the meeting to discuss a flooded intersection at Feeney and Ellna court. Russ Evans of 16326 S. Ellna Court said he appreciated the work that had been recently done by the township but that the sewer going east appears to be plugged. Mr. Reichert confirmed that is true but that the repair is scheduled as soon as equipment is available. There is also a collapsed pipe which is being addressed. D Construction has been authorized to do the job and will be out to complete it.

A motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter was made by Ken McCafferty and seconded by Chuck Willard. Roll call vote taken. Motion carries.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Ken McCafferty. Roll call vote taken. Motion carries.

A motion to authorize an increase in hourly wage in the amount of \$2.00 for Monika McMillen, administrative assistant, was made by Paul Pesavento and seconded by Ken McCafferty. Roll call vote taken. Ken McCafferty – Aye, Chuck Willard – Aye, Paul Pesavento – Aye, John Argoudelis - Aye. Motion Carries.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Willard, seconded by Ken McCafferty. Voice vote taken. Motion carries. Meeting of September 12, 2007 was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Rosemary Pruss

Town Clerk