

VILLAGE OF ROCKTON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2014

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present were: Mayor Adams, Mr. Fridly, Mr. Hoey, Mr. Magnus, Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Winters, and Atty. Szeto

Staff present: Chief Dickson and Tricia Diduch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Winters, second by Mr. Fridly, to waive the reading of the November 18, 2014 Village Board Meeting minutes. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Winters, second by Mr. Peterson, to approve the November 18, 2014 Village Board Meeting minutes. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Hoey would like to table the approval of Resolution 2014-120: Approving Revolving Loan Fund Request for Sanctuary Spa. Motion by Mr. Winters to approve amendments to the agenda. Second by Mr. Peterson. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MAYOR ADAMS

Motion by Mr. Winters to approve Resolution 2014-119: Resolution Establishing Meeting Dates and Times for Rockton Village Board and its Standing Subcommittees for the year 2015, second by Mr. Fridly. All Ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY

Atty. Szeto stated that an objection had been filed today in reference to nomination petitions and that he would keep the Village Board updated.

ZONING

None.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL – MR. WINTERS

Motion by Mr. Winters to approve establishing criteria for determining bad character or not of good reputation for liquor license approvals, second by Mr. Peterson. Mr. Winters provided a list a few weeks ago to have as a primary list of misdemeanor offenses along with any outstanding debt to the Village that would disqualify an applicant from getting a liquor license approved. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Winters to approve leasing three new vehicles for the police department, second by Mr. Peterson. Mr. Winters stated the brand new vehicles would consist of two Tahoes and a Caprice. The annual payment would be \$18,153.54 and the first payment would not be until June 1, 2015 and would not effect this year's budget. Most of the equipment can be transferred from the old squad cars and the cost should not exceed \$10,000 to equip them and these funds will come out of drug and DUI funds. The three new vehicles will replace the three 2008 vehicles that will be sold at auction in the Spring. Mayor Adams was concerned about spreading the payments over a five year period. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Winters to authorize the use of the Village logo for the National League of Cities insurance and petition the citizens of the Village for their service line warranty program, second by Mr. Hoey. Mr. Winters explained that this insurance would cover the sewer main to the residence and the water box to the

residence for a low monthly fee. This coverage would be optional to the citizens and the Village Clerk's office and Water Clerk's office will be educated on this to answer any questions the citizens may have. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MR. HOEY

Mayor Adams opened the Public Hearing in reference to Establishing a Historic Preservation Commission.

Rory Mulligan, 128 W. River Street, stated that he was very passionate about bringing the historic preservation district to Rockton and detailed the benefits of having one in place such as tax credits, grants, and a historic tax assessment freeze. The commission would also provide professional design services at no charge along with seminars and workshops. Mr. Mulligan emphasized preserving the historic homes that are in the community and stated that many residents in Rockton also support this.

Terri Flodeen, 592 N. Prairie Street, stated that she lives in an old home and that she was concerned because she cannot afford to make repairs to the home and that she doesn't want to beg for money to make the repairs. Ms. Flodeen also stated that she would sell her home to anyone that was interested in preserving it and that she would move to a different home. She added that she didn't want anyone telling her what she can and cannot do to her home.

Chris Erickson, 112 W. Warren Street, also had concerns about whether someone would be able to tell him what he can do to his house as far as repairs. Mr. Erickson wasn't clear as to how this process would work. Mr. Erickson said that he laid up for several months because he hurt his leg, but the repairs he plans on doing to his home will be very nice.

Rick Woods, 1650 Old Field Court, addressed some of the concerns of the residents. Mr. Woods is currently a Commissioner on the Planning Board and shows great interest in establishing a Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Woods explained the process of homes becoming a historic district and what is detailed in the ordinance as far as what say the Historic Preservation Commission has. Ultimately, the Village Board would have a final say in the matter. Mr. Woods also explained the benefits of forming the historic districts and answered questions that some of the residents had.

Dennis Henry, 14156 Hickory Rise Court (Roscoe, IL), verified with Mr. Woods that the Historic Preservation Commission was interested in how the exterior of the home was maintained and not necessarily concerned with the interior. Mr. Woods stated that if someone wanted to complete a bathroom addition that was okay to do that. Mr. Henry feels that this is a great opportunity for the community.

Pam Sherwood, 430 N. Blackhawk Boulevard, has lived in Rockton for 25 years and the house across the street was the Jordan house which was later sold at full house and torn down. Mrs. Sherwood stated that she now looks at two apartment buildings in the place where the Jordan house stood and she thinks that is a shame. Mrs. Sherwood feels that this is something that she feels people can meet in the middle on.

Linda Eaton, 101 W. Chapel Street, stated that 10 years ago she and her husband began renovations to the home that had been in the family for many years and is a Talcott-Olson home and added that it was a labor of love. Ms. Eaton stated that Mrs. Nelson was the only person that stopped by and told her that they were doing a nice job and Ms. Eaton appreciated that. Ms. Eaton stated that we, as a community, are still fighting for what the Village logo states, and that is history, heritage and pride.

Judith Crane-Truman, 521 N. Prairie Street, stated that she agrees that we should preserve our heritage and the older homes and is saddened that several of the older homes have been torn down. Ms. Crane-Truman stated that much of the limestone came from her husband's quarry. Ms. Crane-Truman also wonders about the districts and feels that the ordinance needs to be tweaked a bit, but she is not sure how. Ms. Crane-Truman questioned how the districts and the preservation commission are getting the funds or the money to do what they have to do. She also questioned paying fees to be in those districts.

Mr. Woods explained the fees. There is an application fee, but not a fee to live within the district. The entire Village of Rockton is not a historic district. The districts are proposed and granted. There is quite a bit of work before a district becomes a district. The same goes for any individual property.

Michael Peavy, 123 W. Chapel Street, questioned who determines what homes are in the district and Mr. Woods stated that the property owner would have to show interest in the district. Mr. Peavy verified that when doing repairs on a home it needs to be done so that it is restored to its original look. Mr. Woods confirmed this and added that every case is unique and that there would be options that would be cost effective.

Ms. Crane-Truman questioned how the committee is formed and who appoints the committee. Mr. Winters explained the process to Ms. Crane-Truman that is outlined in the ordinance. There was additional discussion on districts vs. individual homes at this time. Mr. Peterson asked Mr. Woods to explain why districts need to be formed as far as financial benefits such as grants or tax credits. Mr. Peterson also asked if a house could be excluded and Mr. Woods stated that he didn't see why not. Ms. Diduch explained the reasons behind the certification as far as financial benefits are concerned. Ms. Diduch also explained why the properties in the districts need to be contiguous in some manner. Mr. Fridly doesn't feel that trapping a homeowner in a historic district is unacceptable. Mr. Peterson commented that there will be bumps in the road if this passes. Mr. Peterson stated that history needs to be preserved if it can, but he doesn't want anyone telling him what he can do with his property. Mr. Fridly agreed with Mr. Peterson and stated he is not against preserving the older homes and it has come a long way, but has concerns about future boards. Mr. Winters commented that Rockton needs to decide how it wants to brand itself. Mr. Winters also added that at least with this ordinance, the homeowner has the option to go in front of the Village Board and voice their opinion.

Rich Spanton, 6786 Yale Bridge Road, stated that he owns a few businesses downtown along with the Copperstone Inn. Mr. Spanton preserved the 1858 home to expand upon and create the inn on his own. Mr. Spanton was empathetic to Mrs. Flodeen's situation, but also felt that there was some confusion and there needs to be more clarity in the issues that are being discussed along with available assistance. Mr. Spanton has concerns about future boards as well and would like to see the community preserved since this is where he chose to live and house his businesses.

Ms. Flodeen stated that she spoke with several people over the last few days and many of them did not show up this evening. She added that some people would not come in and ask for money to make repairs on their homes and that they will just sit and rot.

Mary Anne Mathwich, 720 Center Street, stated that even if you do have money to repair your home, you should still pursue grant money. Mrs. Mathwich also presented information on the history of some of the homes in Rockton.

Mr. Woods closed by explaining the cycles of the Historic Preservation Commission and stated that the commission is appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Village Board and will only serve 3 or 4 year terms. Mayor Adams then closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Mr. Hoey to approve Ordinance 2014-29: Establishing a Historic Preservation Commission, second by Mr. Peterson. Ayes: Mr. Winters, Mr. Hoey, Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Nelson. Nays: Mr. Fridly and Mr. Magnus. Motion approved 4-2.

WATER, SEWER, AND GARBAGE – MR. FRIDLY

Motion by Mr. Fridly to approve Ordinance 2014-31: An Ordinance of the Village of Rockton, Illinois Providing for Regulations Regarding Excavations Under Village Rights of Way and Property, second by Mr. Magnus. Mr. Fridly stated that everyone should have received the information and that it will be handled through the Public Works Department. Mr. Hoey wanted to make sure that all staff in the building should be able to process the paperwork. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET – MR. PETERSON

Motion by Mr. Peterson to approve Ordinance 2014-30: An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning June 1, 2015 and Ending May 31, 2016, second by Mr. Winters. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

BUILDINGS AND PARKS – MRS. NELSON

None.

STREETS AND WALKS – MR. MAGNUS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ACTION ON ITEMS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Hoey wanted to thank those involved with the establishing the historic preservation ordinance and that it has come a long way and it's still a work in progress.

Mr. Peterson wanted to thank his wife, Cheryl, along with the Lions Club for decorating the planters along Main Street for the holidays.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Adams reminded everyone of the activities this coming weekend for the annual Christmas Walk in Rockton.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Mr. Winters, second by Mr. Peterson, to pay bills in the amount of \$291,161.02. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, motion by Mr. Winters, second by Mr. Hoey, to adjourn at 8:24pm. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Stewart
Village Clerk