

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 18, 2011

Chairman Winters called the regular meeting of the Administration Committee to order at 5:30 pm. Present were: Dave Winters, Zachary Baker, Joshua Brown, Mayor Adams, Attorney Cox, and Chief Dickson. Also present Cori Magnus, Gail Beach, Gary Sands and several other community members

Motion by Mr. Baker, second by Mr. Brown to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of July 5, 2011. Motion carried 3-0.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Gary Sands - Addressed committee members with concerns regarding his property located next to the Rockton Athletic Fields and his claim that the village had denied his request for a permit to install a well because city water is located nearby. Mr. Sands also questioned the timing of a letter requesting him to mow the tall weeds on the property.

Gail Beach - Addressed committee members with concerns that the agendas for the village meetings are not being posted on the website in a timely manner.

THE MAYOR

Historic Preservation

The Mayor talked to the committee about the possibility of establishing an ordinance that would require people who own older limestone or historic homes in Rockton to get permission from the village board before the building can be demolished.

The Mayor also shared that the village had received a complaint regarding someone cutting logs and burning in a commercial area of Rockton.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Mr. Baker

Rockin 4 Rockton

Mr. Baker updated the committee on the plans for the Rockin 4 Rockton Youth Concert. He stated all the sales for the event would be donated to the athletic fields. They have added one more food vendor and a couple others are talking about possible participating. A charitable organization may be formed in the future to put on this event with the proceeds still going to the athletic fields.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Baker stated that what he really wanted to talk about when he added this agenda item was not meeting minutes, but rather about the comments made during "Public Comment" time at the last board meeting. Mr. Baker talked about the issue with Gary Sands and his property next to the Rockton Athletic Fields. Mr. Baker read from the village code in regards to the uses permitted on agricultural property. He stated that according to the code Mr. Sands has the right to sell what he grows on the property in temporary stands on the property. The committee members shared that at first they had thought Mr. Sands was

going to be bringing in products from other places and selling them and that would not be allowed on agricultural property. Committee members said if he is only selling what he grows on the land, then there is no problem. Mr. Baker went on to question the village's right to deny Mr. Sands the ability to drill a well on his property that is zoned agricultural, but is located within the village limits. Mr. Winters stated the village needs to consider the issue of the village possibly needing to locate a new municipal well in the area near Mr. Sand's property and how having a private well nearby might affect a municipal well.

Mr. Baker also brought up the issue of the village's law firm requesting a raise. Mr. Baker stated that he feels the village should base their decision on job performance and the advice given during litigation. Mr. Winters explained the history of the Rock Energy Lawsuit. Mr. Cox explained that the purchase of the utility would have been done by statute by selling Utility Certificates that are secured by the asset itself. General Revenue Bonds cannot be used to purchase a utility, and the village's bonding authority would not have been affected. Mr. Baker questioned whether the board should have taken a formal public vote to allow the law firm to appeal of the ruling regarding the Rock Energy Lawsuit. Mr. Baker also questioned the village's law firm's handling of the Wagon Wheel TIF. Mr. Winters explained the benefits and the reasoning behind the creation of the Wagon Wheel TIF. Mr. Baker stated he would never vote for a raise for the law firm.

Agenda Structure

Mr. Baker asked if there could be a place on the agenda to address the issues brought up during "Public Comments". The committee members discussed the suggestion and Attorney Cox stated that board members could bring up issues brought up under public comments under new business during the board meeting, but that no action could be taken.

Ideas for Long Term Development Plan

Mr. Baker shared that he would like to look over the Chamber's development plan to see if there is something in it that the village can use. The committee also briefly discussed possibly meeting with the owners of Sonoco regarding development on that site.

Mr. Brown moved. Mr. Baker second to adjourn at 5:23pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Warren
Village Clerk