

VILLAGE OF ROCKTON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
JULY 5, 2011

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were: Mayor Adams, Mr. Brown, Ms. Davey, Mr. Winters, Mr. Magnus, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Peterson. Also present: Atty. Cox.

Motion by Winters second by Peterson to waive the reading of the June 21, 2011 Village Board Meeting minutes. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Motion by Winters second by Baker to approve the June 21, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Sands - addressed the board with concerns regarding the property that he owns next to the Rockton Athletic Fields. (verbatim comments attached)

Tom Polaski – addressed the board with concerns regarding the Cannel Subdivision and whose responsibility it will be if the septic system fails in the future.

Dean Moring – addressed the board with concerns regarding the pay increase requested by Nicolosi & Associates, LLC for their work for the village. (verbatim comments attached)

Rory Mulligan – addressed the board with concerns regarding the potential demolishing of a home at 708 Center Street. He stated the need for a Historic Preservation Ordinance in Rockton.

MAYOR ADAMS

1. Proclamation for Hononegah Class of '71 Days

Mayor Adams read a proclamation designating July 14 -17, 2011, Hononegah Class of 1971 Days.

2. Approval of Illinois Municipal League Conference Attendance

Motion by Peterson, second by Baker to approve the attendance of 10 people at the 2011 IML Conference in September. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

3. Date Change for October Meetings

Motion by Winters, second by Baker to approve holding the village meetings scheduled for October 17 and 18, 2011 all on Monday October 17th. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

COMMITTEES

Public Safety and Legal - Mr. Winters

1. Purchase Squad Car and Equipment

Motion by Mr. Winters, second by Peterson to approve the purchase of a new squad car and related equipment at a cost of \$25,666.70. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

2. Officer Leave of Absence

Motion by Mr. Winters, second by Peterson to approve an unpaid leave of absence for a police officer to deal with a family member's illness. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

3. Ice Cream Truck Vendor Request

Motion by Mr. Winters, second by Peterson to approve the request by Mr. Kenny Polhamus to operate an Ice Cream Truck in Rockton pending his passing a background check. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Building and Parks - Ms. Davey

1. Virginia Baker Act

Motion by Davey, second by Peterson to approve the payment of \$17,700 to Burbach Aquatics, Inc. to provide the engineering necessary for the Village to comply with the Virginia Baker Act in regards to the village swimming pool drains. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Sewer, Water & Garbage - Mr. Peterson

1. Ratify Consensus to Approve Tow Soil Borings for a New Well

Motion by Peterson, second by Magnus to ratify the consensus to approve the costs for two soil boring tests for a new village well. Roll call All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

2. Sink Hole Repair on Sunrise

Mr. Peterson stated they will be bringing proposals back to the board to repair a sink hole on Sunrise.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

1. Motion by Winters, second by Peterson, to pay bills in the amount of \$81,954.77
Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Hearing no further business, motion by Winters, second by Peterson to adjourn at 7:25pm. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Warren
Village Clerk

07-05-2011 Public Comments from Rockton Village Board Meeting

Speaker: Gary Sands

Good Evening, My name is Gary Sands.

My wife and I own the property at the south end of the sports field on Old River Road.

I'm here tonight to tell you that it has come to my attention within the last couple of weeks that I have been lied to and you the board members have been lied to by the Mayor...Mr. Dale Adams.

I was told I can't sell plants on my property without commercial zoning.

I was told I can't legally access my property through the public access to the park.

I was told I can't drill a water well.

I was told the property can't be used for anything, that I have no property rights because the village board dictates what the land can be used for and the mayor controls the board therefore Mr. Adams strongly encouraged me to work out a deal with him to find other property.

You the board have been told that I really regret buying my property and want to sell it as soon as possible..... nothing could be further from the truth.

I do not want to sell my property, I never wanted to sell it and I will not sell my property. I only began to consider making a deal with the mayor after being bullied and coerced by him.

The mayor told me that if I put my property on the open market that it could be on the market for ten years because it can't be used for anything so I felt there was no other option but to consider a deal he proposed.

The mayor has been working against me from the beginning, and I was gullible enough to believe his lies for a long time.

I'm not here to cause trouble. I just want to be treated like an American Citizen and be permitted to grow landscaping plants on my own land and hopefully sell some.

07-05-2011 Public Comments from Rockton Village Board Meeting

Speaker: Gary Sands (continued)

I used my retirement savings to buy property zoned Agriculture to develop a very small business to supplement my Social Security.

The property is paid for/it belongs to me and my wife.

The taxes are paid in full.

We have acquired permission from the Canadian Pacific Railroad and are completing installation of an electrical hook up.

We intend to acquire permission to drill a water well.

We intend to erect a few temporary structures to protect plants.

We intend to be a proud member of Rockton's business community.

We belong to the Rockton Chamber of Commerce.

We sponsor the Sands Nursery White Sox of the Stateline Pony League.

We will gradually turn our property in to the most beautiful place in Rockton.

Let me ask you this, if our use of this property is so undesirable, what in the world is desirable? Maybe a public works building with big trucks with the addition of a water well that can be drilled by the Mayors direction but not by a man on his own private property.

I ask that the Board please consider and respect the value that we offer the community, and most of all respect our personal property rights as American citizens.

Thank you!!!

07-05-2011 Public Comments from Rockton Village Board Meeting

Speaker: Dean Moring

According to the newspapers, the Nicolosi Law Firm is requesting a significant increase in their legal fees for the Village of Rockton because hourly fees have not been increased for a number of years. The quality of their service should also be a consideration when the board votes on this issue.

The Village Board should consider the following issues:

The Village of Rockton vs. Rock Energy CoOp, regarding the failed Court attempts to force Rock Energy to sell their distribution system for gas and electricity. A note for \$500,000 at 4.6% interest, (\$20,995 due quarterly), was secured to finance a feasibility study. It was stated that the Village could provide lower cost and better service than Rock Energy. According to the Village's latest financial statement on page 39 it states that "The Village is subject to a debt limit of 8.625% of its assessed valuation of \$154,639,325. As of May 31, 2010 the Village had \$7,198,904 of remaining legal debt margin". If this is true, Rockton could not finance the purchase of Rock Energy assets within Rockton. Why then did the legal representatives continue to pursue court action? In reviewing past Village Board minutes, I can find no roll call votes of the Trustees authorizing any legal action. The Village has spent \$533,034 in pursuit of the utilities according to Adams, but in reality the total has to be nearly \$1,000,000 since the taxpayers pay for both sides of the argument. Electric and gas bills reflect those legal costs incurred by Rock Energy. The franchise fee imposed by the Village goes right back into your utility bills as well.

Wagon Wheel TIF – Fat Wallet said he would have 100 people working there when he moved into the Rockton facility, when he moved to Beloit, WI. his employment was 54 people. He came to the board meeting with a storyboard showing a beautiful office building. Neither of these came to pass. He is gone and there was no "claw back clause" for non-performance. Currently there is a \$564,000 note at 4.06% from the First National Bank, unsecured and callable at any time. \$20,828 of interest and principle is due semi annually.

Chemtool TIF – Mr. Athans came to the Village with a story board showing a beautiful office building that was to be his headquarters. His operations were to be consolidated at the Rockton facility. Numerous construction jobs were to result from this move. 400 to 500 employees were to be at this site. A beautiful park was to be given to the Village. He said he needed a TIF to come to Rockton but he is financing his own TIF. There are two \$1,000,000 notes and another \$6,500,000 note. The interest rates are 6% and 8% which seem excessive. The Village of South Beloit got 4.5% on a half million note at about the same time. Contractors were hired from outside of this area, new workers are hired out of a Rockford employment service, no park, and no "claw back" provision for non-performance. Neither of these TIFs currently represents what was proposed when they were initiated. Rockton taxpayers are being short changed.