

April 13th, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at the Village of Hainesville Council Chambers by Mayor Linda Soto at 7:01 p.m.

Chief Frasier led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Clerk Kathy Metzler took roll call. The following Officials were present: Mayor Linda Soto, Trustees Derenoski, Tiffany, Duberstein, Barrett, Daley, and Walkington

Also present were: Chief Wallace Frasier, Village Clerk Kathy Metzler, Deputy Clerk Roseann Stark, Treasurer Kelly Hensley, Public Works Superintendent Jeff Gately, Building Official Russ Kraly, Village Attorney Jim Rock and Village Engineer Greg Gruen

Establishment of quorum

Agenda Approval

Trustee Derenoski motioned to approve the Agenda; seconded by Trustee Walkington.

Trustee Daley asked to remove the Dave Schultz invoice from the Omnibus Vote Agenda to be discussed afterwards. The total amount is \$29,370.00.

Trustee Derenoski motioned to approve the Agenda as amended; seconded by Trustee Walkington

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustees Derenoski, Tiffany, Duberstein, Barrett, Daley, and Walkington

All in favor, motion carried.

Omnibus Vote Agenda

1. A Motion to Approve the March 9th, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. A Motion to Approve the March 30th, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. A Motion to Ratify the March 2010 Bills Payable for \$50,854.72
4. A Motion to Approve the April 2010 Bills Payable for \$82,850.73
5. A Motion to Approve the March 2010 Financials

Trustee Daley motioned to approve Omnibus Vote Agenda as presented; seconded by Trustee Walkington.

All in favor say aye, motion carried.

Trustee Daley motioned to pay Dave Schultz for services rendered for snow plowing in the amount of \$32,992.50; seconded by Trustee Walkington.

Trustee Daley explained that in the course of reviewing bills Treasurer Hensley discovered that Mr. Schultz had billed the Village \$95 an hour and

the last written agreement we had with him was for \$90 an hour for snow removal. Further discussion with Trustee Walkington, Jeff Gately and Mr. Schultz they had recalled to agreeing to raise the rate to \$95 an hour. Kelly reviewed our records, however, she could find nothing in writing. However, because of the service and contributions Mr. Schultz has made to the Village over the years, Trustee Daley recommended that the services for the 2008-2009 year remain at \$90 an hour but for the snow removal this past winter 2009-2010, the rate be increased to \$95 an hour. Trustee Daley stated that this is an increase of cost to us for \$4,850.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustees Derenoski, Tiffany, Duberstein, Barrett, Daley, and Walkington

Motion carried.

Public comments:

Mayor Soto stated that there are quite a few residents here tonight and she would allow extra time for comments. She asked that everyone try to be practical and remember what is going on with the economy and State of Illinois.

George Duberstein, 82 W. Tall Oak Dr., Hainesville, IL 60073 – commended the Mayor, Board and staff on the transparent way the police servicing issue has been addressed, looking at the options objectively and the opportunity for residents to be informed, respond, and listened to without restriction. He stated that he has been very impressed with our police force and 3 police chiefs. His interaction with them and several of the line officers has been very positive. This, however, is not a question of getting police services or no police services as Trustee Duberstein previously mentioned. Recent presentations by the Lake County Sheriff and Grayslake Police Department showed that we would have more than adequate police protection with them. In fact because of their size and various additional capabilities we would probably have more flexibility. This is a question of money. He went over the cost figures. Expenses for our own police force can and do escalate, however, with a contract costs are fixed for the duration of that contract. Mr. Duberstein stated that in this economy spending this extra money is insane. The State is at least 4 months behind in providing us the funds they are obligated to send us. This requires the Village to dip into reserves for operating costs. Mr. Duberstein also stated that if we keep our police force and pay the extra money each year, what services do the residents, maintenance of our infrastructure and capital improvements must we sacrifice and is that wise. Raising taxes for additional spending, when you don't have to do either, is not smart. Mr. Duberstein challenged the Trustees that would like to keep the police force to tell everyone what is the benefit and rationale that justifies spending a minimum of \$300,000 more annually to keep this force and what would they sacrifice to do it. He stated that for these Trustees to sit and say nothing with giving a compelling reason for spending this extra money and thereby reducing this Village's flexibility in serving this community but voting to do so anyway is also irresponsible.

Dawn Keiser, 601 Holiday Lane, Hainesville, IL 60073 – was speaking on behalf of her husband and son regarding the proposal to get rid of the police force. She explained that her son has autism and has wandered away three times from their home. She has called 911 and the police were there immediately. Her husband told her that before we had our own department that the Round Lake police took up to 30 minutes to respond to calls. She realizes that the issue is money. In her family, they are broke because all they pay for is autism. Ms. Keiser stated that \$300,000 a year may not be a lot but to a family with autism that could be that child's life.

Mayor Soto commented that she understands because her youngest son is also autistic. She is very appreciative of what Ms. Keiser was saying.

Ted Mueller, 318 Katherine Drive, Hainesville, IL 60030 – stated that he emailed Fence Post at the Daily Herald and they elected not to publish it but after showing the email to Mayor Soto he decided to read it. The letter that was read by Mr. Mueller is attached.

Doug Williams, 154 Tall Oak Drive, Hainesville, IL 60073 – agrees with George Duberstein that the police decision comes down to the budget and as much as the Village would like to keep the police department it is monetarily not feasible. He stated his concerns with whether the Village should go with Grayslake or Lake County Sheriff.

Rosemary Eaton, 249 Cranberry Lake Drive, Hainesville, IL 60073 – stated that today at 5:00 p.m. on Channel 7 News they reported that the Hainesville Police has been disbanded. She asked why the News already have it disbanded if the Trustees are voting this evening. Trustee Daley stated that no decision has been made yet. He stated that they did not get the information from the Village. She stated her hopes that the Board votes with a good conscience because her family feels safer now. Ms. Eaton also stated that the Board will lose votes, property tax and money; she will move to McHenry where the police department is better.

Chris Larson, 91 E. Haines Dr., Hainesville, IL 60030 – is the Treasurer at Union Square Condominiums. He thanked Mayor Soto, Trustee Daley, Chief Frasier and Treasurer Hensley for listening to his comments regarding the Hainesville budget. He stated that he understands the sentiments a local police department can provide to the Village but he understands the fiscal considerations that need to be made. He had lived in Grayslake for a number of years and commented that he had a positive experience with the Grayslake Police Department. He urged the Board to seriously consider Grayslake Police Department.

Laura Shields, 327 Katherine Drive, Hainesville, IL 60030 – stated that she is more than willing to sacrifice \$300,000. She feels that the beautification of the Village and the \$7,800 for landscaping which is on the agenda is unnecessary as well as the excessive money spent on Cranberry Lake. She would like to keep the police because of the gang activity that surrounds Hainesville. She stated that she feels we would be a money making venture for Grayslake.

Doris Stelmachowski , 7 W. Big Horn Drive, Hainesville, IL 60073 – was disappointed because she felt that more thought should have been put into the decision before we got the police department. She would like to keep the department.

David Criz, 567 N. Triumph Court, Hainesville, IL 60030 – noted that the difference between keeping our own department and contracting out comes to about \$97 to \$127 per resident per year.

Bob Ray, 166 Stillwater Drive, Hainesville, IL 60030 – noted that with Lake County Sheriffs office there might be a possibility that they will be hired to work for them. They would know our area. He asked to think about the people being let go.

Trustee Daley stated that when the county made their presentation they indicated that they would not automatically accept our officers.

Jo Stahoviak, 60 E. Aspen Circle, Hainesville, IL 60030 – commended our police department. She related two incidences that happened that day regarding our police department. In one she called 911 from work in Northbrook and two officers arrived at her home in less than 3 minutes and took care of the situation. The other incident occurred to her neighbor. Once again the Hainesville police officer took care of the situation in a timely fashion. She feels that the Village would not get the same type of service from Grayslake or Lake County Sheriff. She is willing to sacrifice \$300,000 for the safety of her family.

Mayor Soto addressed some of the comments and questions that were asked. She went over her experience with the Hainesville Police Department during her terms as Mayor and Trustee. Mayor Soto agreed that the officers Hainesville has working for them are excellent. It was unfortunate that the department lost their first chief after only 6 months. She stated that she does take issue that when he left a Sergeant was promoted into the Chiefs position.

Mayor Soto added that this process was started last year in July. It has not been rushed into. A community survey was done and a town hall meeting was held. The survey showed that the majority wanted us to contract out for police services. Out of that group; more wanted Grayslake. The town hall meeting had an emotional turnout; many people were very strongly in favor of keeping our own police department. The Board crunched more numbers. Chief Frasier tried to cut the budget where he could. The Mayor and several officials went looking for leasing options. The bottom line is that the financial figures state it will cost us \$300,000 more a year and by the third year \$500,000. The Mayor stated that she also has to take into consideration the state of our economy. The Village is four months behind in receiving money from the State of Illinois. She stated that it will get worse before it gets better. She added that regardless of the decision the Village will be making cuts across the board.

Trustee Daley noted that at this point the Village is \$639,347.66 behind in our projected income or revenue from the state. He stated that the Village might still get some of it however the state is four months behind in payments. Trustee Daley discussed further the budget shortfall figures. He stated that he could predict that the Village's income for this fiscal year could easily be \$300,000 to \$400,000 short than projected. The Village would have to spend some of the reserves.

Mayor Soto added that public safety is of the utmost importance. She stated that she has an autistic child who has been missing also and it is scary. She stated that if the vote is to further negotiate a contract; those questions will be answered. No hard negotiations have been done. If the vote is to keep the police department, she still has serious concerns about public safety, such as evidence and equipment lock up. If a full scale investigation needs to be done, there is no staff, nor does the Village plan on having any staff of a full-blown evidence technician, detectives, etc.

Reports and Communications from Mayor and other Officers:

Mayor

Mayor Linda Soto congratulated Treasurer Kelly Hensley and Utility Clerk Debbie Zwicker for celebrating 13 years and 9 years with the Village. They have done a great job.

Mayor Soto noted that Attorney Jim Rock from Ancel, Glink has officially been appointed our permanent rep at the Board Meetings. Scott Puma and the other staff from Ancel, Glink will continue to work with the Village.

Mayor Soto gave an update on the bike path to Route 120. The engineering is done and work is expected to start shortly. It is her understanding that we are just waiting on one signature from the landowner.

Mayor Soto commented on the leaking of the news to Channel 7 News. She stated that unfortunately people like to stir the pot by calling or emailing and true facts are not always being sent.

Clerk

Village Clerk Kathy Metzler reported that thank you notes were received from Debbie Herr on the passing of her father Glen Westman for flowers. Also a \$50 donation was made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in memory of Carol Schlung. Carol worked for the Village years ago.

Treasurer

Treasurer Kelly Hensley announced that the Village can now accept Visa and MasterCard in house with no convenience fee.

Police Chief

Chief Wallace Frasier stated that his report was distributed. In March the police department received 131 calls for service, which is comparable to the last two months.

Building Official

Building Official Russ Kraly stated that he distributed his monthly report.

Public Works Superintendent

Public Works Superintendent Jeff Gately reported that the Deer Point subdivision has been fertilized. Flags are out so people with pets should stay out of those areas for a few days. Misty Hill and Cranberry Lake will be done by the end of the week. Weather permitting; work will start Wednesday on the drain tile project in front of the Village Hall.

Mayor Soto added that the drain tile is necessary because water is pooling in the front and plants are dying. It will save money in the long run.

Trustee Derenoski asked if Jeff has looked at part timers again. Mayor Soto stated that they will have to do the new budget first. Trustee Derenoski stated that they did a great job.

Village Attorney

Attorney Jim Rock reported that an ordinance is on this agenda extending the moratorium on wind facilities.

Village Engineer

Village Engineer Greg Gruen stated that the Deer Point Sanitary Lift Station Sewer Project is currently out to bid. He explained the project. Bids are due at the end of the month.

Greg also reported that the Route 120 Storm Sewer Project is 95% done. It was submitted to IDOT and Lake County Stormwater Management. He had not heard back from either agency. He also explained the work done for the Lisk Drive residents regarding the erosion.

Greg also stated that the Village was recertified for the Stormwater Management Certification.

Reports of Standing Committees

Finance – Trustee Daley added an additional figure to his earlier statement. Besides being behind on revenue the Village is also behind \$197,000 on the State income tax. The Village will receive some of it when the State decides to distribute it, however, in the two weeks left in this fiscal year the Village will not get anything near the \$197,000.

Public Works – Trustee Walkington stated that the biggest accomplishment this year was the addition of Manhard Engineering as the Village's engineering firm. He also commended Greg Gruen on the terrific job he is doing.

Public Safety – Trustee Barrett reported that he received confirmation from IESMA that the grant for weather radios has been approved. He is awaiting a letter stating the amount that the Village will receive. Kevin thought it would be between 40 to 50 radios so a weather radio can be put in every public

building in the community and the leftovers can be given away to residents at Hainesville Fest.

Trustee Barrett also stated he has not heard yet about the generator stewardship.

Wetlands and Open Spaces – Trustee Duberstein noted that she recently attended a Green Town conference at CLC. She reported on the conference. She explained Hainesville’s efforts to improve the environment. There were 300 participants and it was a successful conference.

Community Events – Trustee Tiffany reported on the plans for Hainesville Fest which is to be held on August 28th. He stated that he is looking into catering options and possible softball tournament. Youth Build Lake County was hoping to do a 5K run in conjunction with the Fest, however, because of relocation demands of the organization a commitment could not be made.

Community Relations – Trustee Derenoski reported on his meeting with the new website designer regarding the layout. The new Village main page was passed out at the Committee meeting which looks great. On the new site a YouTube channel will be set up in order to view Board Meetings as well as other activities.

Business

Village Hall Additional Trees and Shrubs and Native Perennial Plants Approval for \$8,750

Trustee Duberstein motioned to approve \$8,750 for the purchase of landscaping materials for the Village Hall and the entrances around the Village; seconded by Trustee Derenoski.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustees Derenoski, Duberstein, Daley and Walkington

Nays: Trustee Tiffany and Barrett

Motion carried

An Ordinance Extending the Moratorium on the Acceptance and Processing of Applications and Issuance of Permits for Wind Energy Conversion Facilities and Wind Energy Turbines

Mayor Soto stated that six months ago a moratorium was placed on the acceptance and processing of applications and issuance of permit for wind energy conversion facilities and wind energy turbines. Lake County has been working on an ordinance. This ordinance extends the moratorium for another six months.

Trustee Daley motioned to approve the ordinance; seconded by Trustee Derenoski.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustees Derenoski, Tiffany, Duberstein, Barrett, Daley, and Walkington

All in favor, motion carried

Ordinance #10-04-131

Review of Annual Committee Reports

Mayor Soto explained that she asked all the Standing Committee Chairs to provide an annual report summarizing their accomplishments and challenges. They will be posted on the new website as well as using them as a tool at the upcoming Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Discussion and Action on the Future of Village Police Services

Mayor Soto stated that letters and emails from residents voicing their opinion on this issue had been distributed to the Trustees. The Mayor gave the Trustees time to look these over.

Trustee Duberstein left the council chambers at 8:05 p.m. and returned at 8:08 p.m.

The Mayor asked the Board to make a decision whether they will authorize her to approach both Grayslake Police Department and Lake County Sheriff's Department to further negotiate police contract services or keep our own. She asked that each Trustee, when giving their vote, to also state their reasoning.

Trustee Daley motioned to authorize the Mayor to further negotiate outsourcing police services to the Grayslake Police Department or Lake County Sheriff's department; seconded by Trustee Derenoski.

Roll Call:

- Ayes:**
- Trustee Derenoski because it is fiscally responsible.
 - Trustee Duberstein because we have many things in common with Grayslake. Not only are we neighbors but kids go to the Grayslake schools, use Grayslake library and park district so it makes sense to look into sharing the police services with them or Lake County Sheriff.
 - Trustee Daley because he has been working on this and studying this for seven months and is convinced that for continuation of our public safety and the fiscal responsibility of the community he voted aye.
- Nays:**
- Trustee Tiffany because he does not see putting all the officers who made a commitment when they came here knowing it was a fledging department and now we are not going to make a commitment to them for the time they spent here in hopes of us continuing with their employment.
 - Trustee Barrett because we can't put a cost on public safety. We have had bad experiences with contracts. Comments were made about shutting it down now and starting up later but policing agencies have told him that once it is shut down you will not be able to attract a good quality officer. A bone of contention is that it will cost \$300,000 and have to build a building. We knew that when we started this we'd be in this building. He also stated he brought to the table opportunities or different options to look at for buildings which he feels still should be looked at. He has also brought to the table options for benefits. He stated that he is shocked that he hasn't heard anything from the police officers. Many have told

Kevin that they understand it won't be a carte blanche thing right now and they will work without benefits. Trustee Barrett stated that many people worked getting this up and running and to throw it away after two year start up doesn't make sense. He would rather that his tax money go to good policing services rather than give it to a different community. He stated that Grayslake laid off two non-sworn police positions within their community so he has serious doubts about the Grayslake fiscal responsibility. In his heart the best decision for the community is to keep the police department.

-Trustee Walkington voted nay because there is a price on safety. What that price is now he is not sure we can afford it as Trustee Daley is saying in this bleak economy, but he can't believe it would be in the best interest to stop it now and to say that we can look at it in a couple of years. It is said that we have connections with the Grayslake schools but we also have connections with the Round Lake Schools. It is always brought up like it is two different villages and we are not. He thought there were some public works projects that could get done in a couple of years but he is satisfied that under the current situations they could wait. He would take the money they would spend on extending some water and sewer services and wait until it is absolutely necessary. He realizes it is a lot of money but he stated that he is going to look at it as an investment in the Village of Hainesville.

The Village Clerk stated that the vote is 3 to 3.

Mayor Soto stated that at the Town Hall meeting she said that she didn't like to break ties especially on such a big topic. She stated that she usually feels that a tie in these situations means the homework hasn't been done but she feels the Village has exhausted our resources and spent extensive time on this issue. The Mayor stated that although she respects the Trustees opinions she would have liked more input from them as to how to fund the police department. Mayor Soto stated that Trustee Tiffany is on the Finance committee and we have asked repeatedly for suggestions about other cuts or how we can fund this police department and there were no suggestions. Trustee Tiffany stated before his concerns about putting the officers on the street without a job. Mayor Soto doesn't relish that idea whatsoever; however, the majority of our officers are part time and work full time elsewhere. The Mayor explained if we kept the police department we would have more full time officers. In several staff meetings Mayor Soto stated that if we do not keep the police department they will have severance pay and references. Mayor Soto takes issue with options that haven't been explored. Trustee Barrett brought forward half way through the process a General Steel Company which had numerous fraud charges brought against them. Building Official Russ Kraly was assigned to look into three reputable firms for steel buildings. Leasing options were also explored. All figures were presented in a power point two weeks ago. The bulk of the money is in salary and benefits. Mayor Soto acknowledged that Trustee Barrett had an insurance broker come in and she and Chief Frasier sat in on the meeting; there were quotes from two separate companies. Going further, this insurance firm could be less expensive anywhere from \$50 to \$150 a month less and they wouldn't

necessarily have to go thru a full scale physical exam. However, they did confirm what is in our footnote on our presentation that until the underwriting is done, that amount can inflate as high as 67%. The assumption was made on those quotes. There was a difference between our quotes; we gave the number of employees where Trustee Barrett did provide ages and dependents, but it assumed that everyone had 100% clean bill of health; no diabetes etc. The Mayor stated she did not feel other options could be looked at. It is time for tough decisions to be made. She felt that enough time had been spent on this. Mayor Soto broke the tie. She stated that she would further negotiate on behalf of the Village of Hainesville police contract services that guarantee public safety with fiscal responsibility. She stated that she resents the fact that she has a Trustee telling her that he is disappointed that he has not heard from officers or they haven't been given ample time to speak. The Mayor has been in several staff meetings with them and has had one on one discussion with officers in her office.

Motion carried.

The Regular Board Meeting recessed at 8:23 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Trustee Derenoski motioned to go into executive session; Trustee Walkington seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustees Derenoski, Tiffany, Duberstein, Barrett, Daley, and Walkington

Motion carried

Trustee Derenoski motioned to enter back into the Regular Board Meeting at 8:49 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Duberstein.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustees Derenoski, Tiffany, Duberstein, Barrett, Daley, and Walkington

All in favor, motion carried

Trustee Derenoski motioned to adjourn the April 13th, 2010 Regular Board Meeting; seconded by Trustee Duberstein.

All in favor say aye, motion carried.

The April 13th, 2010 Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Metzler, RMC, CMC
Village Clerk