

Village of Mapleton

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

Thursday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting to be recorded

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES!

1) Roll Call by Clerk:

Present; Mayor, Carl A. Bishop, Trustees – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. Also present: Clerk, Patricia S. Briggs, Treasurer, Peggy Stidham and Attorney, Lane Alster. Absent: Mark Brining and Mark Foust. There is a quorum represented.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Call to Order at 6:32 PM by Carl Bishop, Mayor

4) Approval of Agenda

Liz Rench asked that the ordinance to add an additional liquor license be tabled until next month when a full board would be present. She then made a motion to accept the Agenda with this change and was seconded by Harvey Stidham. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No-0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

5) CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Village Board and will be enacted by one motion with no separate discussion of the items. If discussion of an item is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda to be considered separately.

- a) Minutes from Regular Board Meeting – October 16, 2018
- b) Minutes from Public Hearing October 16, 2018
- c) Bills & Correspondence (Received October 16, 2018 – November 7, 2018)

(corrected end date)

Treasurer's Report

Liz Rench made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as posted and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No-0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

6) Public Comments

Please keep comments to three minutes. Review the agenda before you speak. This is the ONLY opportunity you will be given to speak during the meeting. There will be no discussion by audience members during the business meeting unless there is an emergency situation.

7) Addressing the Board

- a) Stan Bersin – Not present

8) Old Business

a) Sunrise Energy Ventures Report and discussion of solar farm

Liz Rench and Clerk, Pat Briggs stated they had done an internet search and could find nothing negative about the company. There was a discussion about need the property to be changed from agriculture to commercial or industrial and Attorney Lane Alster stated that it could remain under agriculture zoning but it could be amended to include the solar farm as a qualifying use. Mike Beecham asked about the land being only 17.4 acres and for agriculture it should be 25 acres so it would be a non-conforming use of that property. He further asked if the agricultural use was going away would it need to be changed to commercial. Attorney Alster said he will look into it. If we amend the zoning ordinance classification for A1 to include solar farms it will be considered conforming use. If board wants it to go ahead with the project we'll conform the zoning ordinance to be ok. He stated he would work with the zoning committee and will draft the proposed ordinance and circulate it to everyone. Dick Ray explained that Sunrise Energy has the lease and need the permit to be sure it is ok. As soon as they have the permit then engineering studies will be made to be sure it is feasible. Mike asked if only the village is involved or is the state involved. Dick Ray stated that the state is sorting out the new activity and new technology and they don't expect any issues. Attorney Alster asked that the zoning committee set up a meeting immediately after the regular board meeting in December so the permit will be ready to approve. Dick Ray stated that Mike Zwieg of Sunrise Energy will give the village everything needed to approve the solar farm.

b) Amended Budget

Mike made a motion that the Village abandon the provisions of Sections 8-2-9.1 through 8-2-9.9 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 58-2-9.1 through 5/8-2-9.9), regarding the annual budget procedure, and that the Village proceed with an annual appropriation ordinance as provided in Section 8-2-9 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/8-2-9). He was seconded by Rodney Smith. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. Mayor Carl

Bishop also voted yes to make the required major quorum. No – 0. Absent – Mark Brining and Mark Foust.

c) Appropriations Ordinance – 2018-11-08-1

Rodney made a motion to accept the Appropriations Ordinance and was seconded by Mike Beecham. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No-0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

- d) Christmas Lights – renting a lift. The question was asked about when the lights were usually put up and taken down. Liz explained that they go up after Thanksgiving and down after the first of the year. Fritz has checked all the lights and has volunteered his time to do so. Liz asked if it was possible we wouldn't need the lift for both putting up and taking down. Harvey said he has a 30' aluminum ladder and will get with Fritz to see if they can be done by ladder. The motion was made by Harvey Stidham to approve the \$800 for both installing and removing the decorations if needed and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No-0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

9) Committee Reports (No motions can be made during reports)

a) Finance Committee – Mike Beecham

The clerk made an error in the figures given to the treasurer and the trustees were overpaid by \$10. There was a discussion about how to proceed and it was decided to just take the \$10 off the next pay period. The mayor's check was also calculated wrong but has already been corrected.

b) Health and Water – Harvey Stidham

Harvey expressed his frustration that residents are not making their water payments on time and is costing the village in postage, supplies and time. There was discussion about raising the penalty to \$10 for unpaid bills or 10%, whichever is greater and there was general agreement by the board. Clerk will check with CUSI to make sure the system can generate the penalty of 10% or \$10, whichever is greater.

Harvey said that Lonza had asked him about paying their bill electronically to avoid their late fees due to bills being paid out of the corporate office and incurring large late fees. He asked if we could waive the late fees and was told no because that would open the door for waiving them for everyone. Harvey asked if they could do an electronic payment but was told at this time we can't accept electronic payments. Harvey also wondered if he could ask Lonza and maybe Matheson about paying for the software upgrade needed to make that happen. Dick Ray asked if the companies could do an ACH payment through

their bank directly into the water bank account. Liz Rench asked if she and the Clerk, Pat could work on it and was given approval to do so.

c) Liquor – Carl Bishop

Mayor Bishop stated there have been some problems with The Corner Farm selling liquor without a license. He is looking into it and the Liquor Committee will meet and discuss the issues and bring it back before the board.

d) Streets and Alleys – Rodney Smith

Rodney Smith informed the board that Ameren can agreed to give the village \$7,270.79 in settlement for the damage done to the culvert and road on Vickie Lynn. Rodney also explained that Astle Lane might need more ditch work in the Spring and that the state still has work to do in that area as well.

e) Zoning and Code Enforcement – Mark Foust

Mark Foust and Rodney Smith has talked with Village Attorney, Mike Seghetti about him looking over the ordinances and see what State mandates are so we can get them cleaned up. Attorney Alster stated that Mike Seghetti was getting up to speed on the business of the village and would be here at the next meeting to go through it.

f) Mayor's Report

Nothing

10) New Business

a) Dump Truck (Surplus) Ordinance 2018-11-08-02

Liz Rench made a motion to accept Ordinance 2018-11-08-02 to surplus the dump truck and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No-0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

b) Board Pay – Liz Rench

Liz explained that the two-tier thing to pay Chairs \$50 per meeting and associates \$35 was done two years ago and it used to be \$35 per meeting. Then it went to chairs \$50 and everyone else \$35. Why? Liz would like to see it go back to straight across the board pay. The next election is in April and this change will only pertain to the new board members (except Liz & Mayor Bishop). She asked if there is a time limit when we can change it according to State Law and Municipal code. Attorney Alster will look into it. Everyone should be paid \$35 per meeting and no pay for special meetings. She also stated that she felt the Mayor's pay should drop to \$100/month instead of \$150, that it is a little outrageous for what he does. Attorney Alster will check

into it.

- c) Liquor License – Ordinance 2018-11-08-_____ Mayor Bishop – Tabled till December

- d) Reduce hall rental fee of \$50 for licensed charities – Liz
Liz Rench stated that she felt we should lower the rental for the hall for licensed charities and recommended \$50 instead of \$75. There will still be a \$50 clean-up refundable deposit required. Harvey Stidham made the motion to reduce hall rental fee to \$50 for licensed charities and was seconded by Rodney Smith: Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No-0; Absent – 2. Motion carried.

- e) Budget Motion – Mike – Already done

- f) Illinois Municipal League Dues - \$150
There was a brief discussion about the benefits of continuing to belong to the Illinois Municipal League. Liz Rench made a motion to approve the renewal for the Illinois Mutual League for next year and was seconded by Harvey Stidham. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion Carried.

- g) Raising water penalty to \$10.00 or 10%, whichever is greater – Harvey
(This will require an amended ordinance if approved). Harvey expressed concern about the number of residents who do not pay their water bills on time, creating extra work and expense. The board was in agreement that the penalty should be increased to \$10.00 or 10%, whichever is greater and an amendment to the water Ordinance will be on the agenda for December. The Water Engineer also brought up the fact that we used to leave water off for 24 hours for non-payment and we haven't done that for some time. Harvey expressed that we might need to start doing that again in order to cut down on shut offs and turn ons. Clerk is to check with CUSI (water software) to see if this change is possible and Attorney Alster will check to make sure we can do this. Mike Seghetti will work with the clerk to get an ordinance ready for the next meeting.

- h) Insurance Premiums 2018-2019 – Mike
Insurance premiums for the village went up about \$380. Mike Beecham made a motion that we accept the renewal for the insurance for the Village from Preston Insurance and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion Carried.

Liz Rench wanted to let the board know that Will does get paid for doing the Quarterly meter checks since there was a question that came up about that.

- d) EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act for purposes of discussing the employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village.

No executive session required.

- e) Announcements**

- f) Additional Business if any**

- g) Adjourn Open Session**

Liz Rench made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and was seconded by Mike Beecham. Votes: Yes – Mike Beecham, Liz Rench, Rodney Smith and Harvey Stidham. No – 0; Absent – 2. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Clerk, Patricia S. Briggs

Approved by Village of Mapleton Board of Trustees on December 13, 2018