

Village of Creston Minutes
Tuesday, August 3, 2021

President Byro called the meeting to order at 7:02:49 pm. Trustees Kerns, Hopkins and Ward were present. Clerk Payton was also present.

Minutes from July 6, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Trustee Kerns to accept the minutes and Trustee Ward seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with all yeas.

Visitors & Communication – There were no visitors or communications that needed to be discussed.

President Byro announced that Atty Tess would be late and as such the agenda would be reordered.

Committee Reports

Finance - Trustee Hopkins had nothing to report

Streets & Sidewalks - Trustee Ward had nothing to report

Water & Sewer - Trustee Kerns brought up the hydrant flushing that the village has been doing to get chlorine into the water. Curtis Loyd reported that as of Sunday (8/1/21) the chlorine levels were up, so he did not flush on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday. Mr Loyd said that they now may have to look at getting the chlorine levels down. They got rid of the ammonium nitrate and he thinks they are a bit ahead of the game. President Byro praised Mr Loyd and his efforts to get the chlorine levels right and he appreciated his work. Trustee Ward emphasized that the water was never unsafe. Mr. Loyd was just trying to balance it based on the new EPA guidelines about chlorine levels. Mr. Loyd had samples sent to Mike M. and the only thing the samples showed were higher levels of ammonium nitrate, which the flushing eliminated.

Health & Safety - Trustee Hibshman was not present and no one else raised any issues

Zoning & Planning - Trustee Katzman was not present and no one else raised any issues

Subdivision - Trustee Williams was not present and no one else raised any issues

Old Business - President Byro asked Trustee Kerns to speak on the water meter reading equipment that Trustee Hibshman and Trustee Kerns discussed with Steve Cooper from Core & Main. Mr Cooper issued a proposal that includes a \$1950 annual service contract regarding radio frequencies. President Byro stated he thought it sounded like a good deal and he asked Trustee Kerns what his thoughts were. Trustee Kerns stated that he thought it was a good deal, and that it is expensive equipment but if you want to read meters, you need to have it. Trustee Hopkins asked if Trustee Hibshman was satisfied with the proposal, as he is familiar with the business and how it works, and President Byro stated that he thought he was. Trustee Hopkins asked if the annual fee was for a frequency license and Trustee Kerns and President Byro both stated yes. President Byro stated that we have to have that and haven't had it for the last few years. We have been using whatever frequency is available, and this contract would give us a dedicated frequency. Trustee Kerns made a motion to approve the new water meter reading equipment for \$9795. Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion. President Byro asked for more discussion. There was none, so President Byro asked for a roll call vote. Trustee Kerns, Hopkins and Ward all voted yea. President Byro also voted yea. Trustees Hibshman, Williams and Katzman were not present.

New Business - President Byro introduced Adam Lanning from RMU to explain the Sewer Rate Increase. The increase was proposed to Rochelle and they approved it, so we are included. Mr. Lanning explained that they hired Willett Hoffman out of Dixon to conduct a rate study as they were looking at doing a phase 2 upgrade at their sewer plant. They intend to fund the phase 2 upgrade with an Illinois EPA low interest loan and the EPA likes them to do a rate study to show that they can repay the loan. Mr Lanning reviewed the results of the study. The report he distributed contained water reclamation infrastructure photos, the reclamation budget, Plant Phase 1 capital projects, and Phase 2 capital projects, other miscellaneous capital projects, water reclamation rates, and cost impact to the users. Mr. Lanning went through the documentation that he presented and spoke about the Phase 1 upgrades that have already been done: a bar screen that removes large solids such as pop bottles and 2 x 4s; a grit classifier that washes and classifies the grit that is taken out of the waste water; Biological and Nutrient Removal upgrades; a new lift station that was built on the foundation of the old 1920s building; anaerobic lagoon upgrades; 2000 square foot addition to administration building; addition of control room; and conversion of an old building to a certified bacteriological lab. Phase 1 cost approximately \$7 million of which they received \$2.1 million in forgiveness so they are paying back approx. \$4.9 million over the next 20 years at low interest.

Phase 2 involves clarifier rehabilitation, replacing all mechanical components and stripping and coating all metalwork; conversion from tertiary sand filters to cloth filters, which remove solids down to a much finer level and aids in the removal of phosphorous; and excess flow lagoon upgrades. These upgrades will cost approx. \$7 million and they are hoping for another 30% forgiveness and a low interest rate. With the completion of these upgrades, they should be set for another 20-30 years. Past and future sanitary sewer line projects in Rochelle were also discussed. Mr Lanning then went over the budget, and summarized the Phase 1 upgrades that were already done and the Phase 2 upgrades that will be done. He also spoke about upcoming capital projects and purchases. He then went over the Creston and Hillcrest rate schedules. Current fixed rates are \$80.10, and cover administrative fees, with a total usage charge of \$2.33 per 100 cubic foot, and a gradual increase of 5% per year over the next 5 years. President Byro clarified that Creston is considered one entity, so the village sends one check and then divides the amount amongst the residents. Mr Lanning referred to a list of municipalities and their usage and he stated that if one watches the list long enough, the community with the lowest usage will eventually become the community with the highest usage, as it cycles. The goal is to keep the Rochelle area at an average by maintaining a healthy investment in the system. They feel that it is prudent for everyone to pay their fair share in regards to infrastructure so that we aren't passing that burden onto future generations. The cost impact to the village is a 5.5% increase for 2022; a 5.2% increase for 2023; a 5.0% increase for 2024 and a 2.2% increase for 2025. After that, it should be a simple cost of living increase. President Byro asked if the rates are in effect now, and Mr Lanning stated that everything happened quickly. They did the rate study and through their meter upgrades, they knew the rates needed to be increased by August 1 or they would have to wait another year to increase the rates. He did assure us that the rate study was done thoroughly. President Byro stated that we are bound by the contract with Rochelle, and Trustee Kerns asked if the numbers are within that contract, and President Byro responded that they are. Trustee Ward wanted to clarify that the Rochelle capital recovery is higher because Rochelle is being billed for all the lining & other Rochelle specific projects and the residents of Creston are not. The residents of Creston are being billed for plant improvements and treatment. President Byro stated that we would need to adjust our rates.

President Byro asked Village Engineer Kevin Bunge about the IDOT document that shows the additional \$35,000 that IDOT dedicated to the project. The document shows their commitment to the additional monies and what we owe. It is an amended agreement with the new amounts that IDOT is paying, and that we will owe once we get a bill. President Byro gave the document to Clerk Payton to prepare and put on his desk for his signature. Once signed, 4 copies will be mailed to IDOT and 1 copy will stay at Village Hall. Safe Routes to School is done and they are working on a punch list back and forth with the contractor. Quantities have been agreed upon as of the previous week. Trustee Ward brought up a resident 2 houses down from Booster Hall and their B box used to be right on the roadside of the sidewalk and it's gone. They believe when the sidewalk got done, it got concreted over. Kevin stated that if it had been exposed that would not have happened, but he said he would look into it. Kevin said they are ready to go out with another package for grouting. They try to plan it for an entire day of work.

Building Inspector, Casper Manheim spoke about permits, mostly for roofing. He is concentrating on letter writing. The old carriage house that was falling down has been taken down. He is still working on the house on W North St with all the vehicles on the property. He has made repeated attempts to contact the resident and has gotten no response. He is also working on 3 properties that they had asked him to demo: one is behind the post office, one is on E Depot, and one is on E North St just before Woodlawn. He sent certified letters and got no response. He will work with Atty Tess and/or Atty Crull on these matters.

President Byro moved on to Booster Club Fireworks. The Booster Club has asked for a donation, which the village has done every year. The amount decided upon was \$2500. Trustee Hopkins moved that the village donate \$2500 to the Booster Club for fireworks. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. President Byro called for a roll call vote, then if they were all set, if they had the liquor licenses. Tonya Sarver and Ken Stoll stated that they need volunteers and they will take whatever time people can donate. They will have a pop trailer. There will not be a car show. They are welcoming people who have vintage cars to put them into the parade. NO pre-registration is necessary. Bring whatever vehicle you have and just show up. President Byro will be in Amboy for their car show. Trustee Hopkins brought up an issue with the Rochelle Township High School buses from previous years and he offered to let them park on his property if necessary. He said there was an issue regarding ruts in the ditch, so to avoid any future drama, Trustee Hopkins offered to let them park on his property if need be. Roll call vote for Fireworks donation: Trustee Kerns voted yea, Trustee Hopkins voted yea, Trustee Ward voted yea, and President Byro voted yea.

President Byro spoke about the ARPA allocation. The Village is eligible for \$87,955.90. He was going to ask Kevin about getting this done for us. Trustee Ward stated that Treasurer Payton can do it, so President Byro said he would ask her to take care of it. We need to find out what the monies can be used for. Kevin said the nice part about some of it includes maintenance in addition to long term capital investment. Kevin said that one community he works with is using it for fire hydrants. Trustee Ward reiterated we need to find out what we can spend it on and how we can spend it before we spend it.

Liquor License for Headon's was discussed. Trustee Hibshman was not present, and Atty Tess said he has some questions that he would like to discuss with Trustee Hibshman before moving forward. Discussion was tabled until Trustee Hibsham is available to

answer questions. Cost of the liquor license was discussed. Rochelle waived their fees for the year 2020, and the village did the same. Atty Tess said you can do the licenses on an annual basis if you want, but you do not have to. Trustee Kerns stated he wants them to get their full year's worth. Trustee Ward stated that we don't have that many liquor licenses to manage. President Byro stated that he heard that CJ's was not renewing their liquor/gaming license. President Byro stated that we will hold off on that issue.

President Byro brought up the IML conference and asked Atty Tess to speak about it. President Byro asked if anyone would be interested in going. He said we have some upcoming issues that will involve grant-writing, so it would be good to have someone go and attend some seminars so we are up to speed on everything. The Village will pay for anyone who wants to go. Atty Tess and his group go every year. Atty Tess said we really need to make a move on it if you want to stay as rooms will sell out. Atty Tess said that we should budget for this event every year and that at least half the board should go every year. He feels it is an expense that is well worth it, and that there is much to be learned from attending this conference and the individual seminars. The conference runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9/23/21-9/25/21. The cost is nominal and it would cost \$360 a night to stay at the hotel. President Byro said to think about it and let him or Clerk Payton know.

President Byro brought up the trees on the west side of South St that are blocking the intersection. Trustee Hopkins corrected the location to the north side of South St, just east of Main St. Trustee Kerns stated that he thought we were going to trim them. Trustee Hopkins said we can trim them, but he isn't sure how effective that will be. Trustee Kerns suggested trimming them and find out what happens. Trustee Hopkins explained that it depends on the tree and its natural shape, and how it grows. Trustee Ward suggesting having someone come out and look at all the parkway trees. President Byro is concerned about accidents happening because it is hard to see around the trees. Reid Elliott suggested looking into transplanting the trees. Trustee Kerns isn't sure that will work due to the size of the trees, so he suggested again that the trees be trimmed and we can see what happens from there.

Treasurer's Report – President Byro introduced the Treasurer's Report to approve the bills. Trustee Ward questioned the maintenance bill on a 2003 GMC Sierra truck. Trustee Kerns clarified which truck the bill was for, Trustee Ward was satisfied. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to approve the bills. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. President Byro asked if there were any questions. None were asked. Roll call vote was taken. Trustee Ward voted yes. Trustee Kerns voted yes. Trustee Hopkins voted yes. President Byro voted yes. Bills wee

President Byro said he had nothing else. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. All voted in favor. President Byro adjourned the meeting at 7:57pm.