

## Village of Creston Minutes Tuesday, December 6, 2022

President Byro called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Trustees Hibshman, Hopkins, Katzman, Ward, and Williams were present. Trustee Kerns was not present. Attorney Crull was present.

President Byro introduced the minutes and asked for additions or corrections. Trustee Ward asked for a correction regarding the warrants for stop signs. WDTC should be MUTCD. Correction made. Trustee Ward made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion. Amended minutes were approved unanimously.

**Visitors & Communication** – President Byro said he had no communications and asked if there were any visitors. There were none. President Byro thanked Curtis Loyd for hanging the Christmas decorations. President Byro stated that the Christmas Parade went well, and Trustees Ward and Hibshman agreed.

Attorney Crull said that they received initial feedback (draft denial) from the IEPA regarding the landfill. It highlights items that will need to be discussed and worked on, 2 of which are relative to drainage and a footprint, and those should be easily addressed. The goal is to have the draft denials amended and sent out by the end of the year, and if not, by the end of January 2023.

Attorney Crull also spoke about the NICOR gas contract. He went through their files back to when he started in 2014 and there were 3 different proposals during that time. He felt it best to put those 3 proposals together with the most recent one and determine what is most suitable for the Village. Trustee Ward asked if Attorney Crull had found the comments that had been sent to them regarding the last proposal and Attorney Crull stated that he had. Attorney Crull said that is most likely where things stopped with the last proposal, and they will need to go back down that same path and see if there is anything different that comes from it. Trustee Ward stated that if there is a project such as road widening that would require NICOR to move anything, the Village does not want to pay for that.

Casper Manheim said there were 8 properties that Casper, Penny and Attorney Crull have been working on. 4 properties are set for demolition. Casper stated that he believed that he has all the needed information. Attorney Crull stated that he had all the letters and photographs on those properties. He noted that a new property had been added, but if improvements are being made to that property, no action will be taken at this time. Casper stated that one property was behind the post office; one was on E North St; one on S Main St, and one on E Depot St. Two properties have vehicles: one is on W North St and the other is on Grant and Woodlawn. There is a car on the property that has weeds growing around it. There were two properties that Trustee Kerns brought up at the last meeting on W North St. The gentleman in the apartment has been in contact with Casper and is working on cleaning up the property. As far as the demolition properties and the properties with the cars, Casper has done everything he can do, and Attorney Crull stated that all relevant paperwork will be filed by the end of the year. Trustee Ward asked if condemnation is being filed and Attorney Crull said yes. President Byro stated that it was nice that residents had reached out and were working with Casper. Trustee Katzman mentioned that all the siding and fencing was done on a property near his and that the improvements looked nice.

Kevin Bunge said he had three things. There was a meeting at Well No. 3 to make sure everyone was on the same page regarding the project. He got a revised quote from Layne Western, but he has not had a chance to look at it in detail. They are planning to have a new pump motor on site when they pull the pump. They believe they have enough data now to provide a motor before the pump is pulled. They still need to find somewhere to pump off to, which will be the biggest concern. President Byro stated that they had planned to get a generator, but rather than do that, they are going to buy the pump and put it in once the old pump is pulled out. The \$13,000 that would be used for the generator will then go to replace the pump. That was not an option before because they did not have enough data to determine what was needed, but now they do so they can order the right pump for replacement. Once the pump is in, there needs to be chlorine testing, and the pump could run for days. The pump runs at 300 gallons per minute and some pumps run 5-6 days. There must be some place to put all that water. Kevin stated it is important to discuss options and make a plan. Trustee Ward stated that if the water can be moved across the intersection, there is new storm drainage in that area. Kevin stated it will be a combination of piping and culverts and ditches, but the solution is not obvious. Kevin stated he would go through the updated proposal in detail, but he felt it was in line with the original proposal. Trustee Ward asked how they were going to access the well, as it is land locked. Kevin said he would find out if that was discussed. Kevin stated one of his engineers was at the meeting. Trustee Ward stated that they will need to go across the library's lot or the record store owner's lot. President Byro stated that Mike Megurdichian did not mention anything about that when they spoke. Kevin felt there must be a maintenance easement on record and Trustee Ward stated it was probably a handshake agreement back in the day.

Kevin also spoke about the ARPA water project. The IEPA permits have been received, and they will most likely go out for bids in February. They could go out for bids now, but the bids would be more estimates than actual cost. The piping, if available, is very expensive right now, so it makes more sense to wait until February when the Village would have a more accurate project cost.

Kevin also spoke about the Quiet Zone. They are trying to set up a meeting with John Plemanic (sp?) from Union Pacific Railroad. The Village has done its part, but a meeting with UP has to happen before refining any plans. Kevin hopes that there will be action on this by the next board meeting on January 3, 2023. President Byro asked if anyone had any questions. No one voiced any.

### **Committee Reports**

Finance - Trustee Hopkins had nothing.

Streets & Alleys – Trustee Ward said he had nothing other than he saw the plow was on the new truck. President Byro stated that the big plow is in the shop in Rochelle due to a short in the wiring somewhere that they have been unable to find. The battery light is on, and they checked the battery and the alternator, and it was neither of those issues. Treasurer Payton stated that they got a bill for that repair so the truck should be back. Treasurer Payton stated that they replaced both batteries and a cable and the bill was to be approved with the Treasurer's report.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Kerns was not present.

Health & Safety - Trustee Hibshman said he had nothing.

Zoning & Planning – Trustee Katzman said he had nothing.

Subdivision - Trustee Williams said he did not have anything. President Byro stated he has not heard much from the Subdivision owners. President Byro said that they had sold a lot in the subdivision. Trustee Williams said he hadn't seen a for sale sign anywhere. Trustee Ward said he hoped it wasn't one way in the back.

**New Business** – Treasurer Payton spoke about the 2023 Tax Levy that was discussed at the November 1, 2022 meeting. Nothing has changed, and Treasurer Payton requested that the board pass the Tax Levy of \$22,075, and that money is going to be put toward new equipment. President Byro pointed out that the date on the front page was incorrect, and Treasurer Payton stated she would correct it. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to pass the FY2023 Tax Levy ordinance. Trustee Katzman seconded the motion. President Byro asked for questions. There were none. Roll call vote taken. Trustees Katzman, Ward, Williams, Hibshman, and Hopkins voted yes. Trustee Kerns was not present.

President Byro brought up the NICOR gas contract. Attorney Crull asked that it be left on the agenda, and they will go through the same issues with NICOR. Attorney Crull has Trustee Ward's input from last time. Trustee Ward asked if NICOR said anything about relocation or abandonment of old lines. Attorney Crull said he did not think so. Trustee Ward stated that NICOR is famous for replacing a line and leaving the old line in the ground. They don't locate the old lines, so when someone digs on the property and runs across it, NICOR is called, and they take a long time to arrive. Once they arrive, they tell the owner that they think the line is dead but they aren't sure, so the owner has to redesign the project and work around the old lines. Trustee Ward stated that if NICOR wants to abandon a line, they need to remove it.

President Byro stated that the Village insurance is normally due in December, but he just heard from our insurance agent this week, so it could not be on the agenda. The insurance will need to be discussed in January. Trustee Williams asked if the Village was still covered and President Byro stated yes. Trustee Williams asked if the new truck and plow have been added and Treasurer Payton stated that they had been. President Byro stated Workman's Compensation went up about \$100. Trustee Ward asked how the buildings were insured. He asked if they were replacement cost or are they set value. Treasurer Payton stated she thinks they are insured for replacement cost with 10% added for inflation.

**Old Business** – None. Clerk Payton reminded those running for office in the April Consolidated Election that all candidate paper can be turned in the week of December 12, 2022 – December 19, 2022, and the absolute deadline is 5:00pm on December 19, 2022. President Byro asked if anyone had been in to pick up any candidate packets and Clerk Payton replied that no one had.

**Treasurer's Report** – Trustee Hopkins made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Hibshman seconded the motion. President Byro asked if there were any questions about the bills. He said the snowplow bill was included. Treasurer Payton also stated that the Village got a new computer, and Clerk Payton stated that the new handheld had also arrived. Roll call vote taken. Trustees Hibshman, Hopkins, Ward, Williams and Katzman voted yes. Trustee Kerns was not present.

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 7:23:50 pm.