

Village of Creston Minutes Tuesday, February 1, 2022

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

President Byro introduced the minutes and asked for additions or corrections. Trustee Kerns made a motion to approve and Trustee Ward seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Minutes were accepted with emendation.

Visitors & Communication – President Byro started the meeting with Attorney Crull.

Attorney Crull said that he did not have a lot going on. He stated that President Byro had brought to his attention that a couple of other towns are raising the fees they collect from each gaming machine from \$25 to \$250. Trustee Ward asked if that was an item we would have to be in parity with Rochelle on per the Jurisdictional Boundary Agreement and Attorney Crull said he would have to look into that. Atty Crull stated that he was confident Rochelle would raise the prices at some point and that once one community raises the fees, the rest will follow suit. Trustee Kerns asked if it comes from the state's portion or the property owner's portion. Attorney Crull stated it comes from the property owner's portion. Trustee Williams asked if the fee was per month or per year. Attorney Crull replied it is per year. President Byro said that some towns are raising the fees and some are not, so the board will have to decide whether how the village will proceed.

Casper stated that he addressed the lights that were brought up at the previous meeting. The property owners are aware of the issue and are waiting for their contractor to come into town so that they can take care of the problem. They were unaware of the how bright the lights were when they were installed. The contractor they worked with is coming back to do some work for the local grain company, so it will be addressed at that time. Curtis Loyd said he felt sure that they had already toned the brightness down. Casey's has applied for a building permit. They are changing some signage and installing new logos. They are not making changes to the building or any of the gas pumps. It is only signage that is being changed.

Kevin Bunge was not able to attend the meeting. President Byro asked if everyone had received the email that Kevin sent and he stated it would be discussed later in the minutes.

Committee Reports

Finance - Trustee Hopkins had nothing to report.

Streets & Sidewalks - Trustee Ward said he didn't have much. He got a from Tom Richter asking if he was aware that the Village of Creston is eligible for \$27,000 in money from the CARES Act. It is only available for expenses related to COVID from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. President Byro said that they have look into this before and the village did not have any expenses that would qualify.

Water & Sewer - Trustee Kerns had nothing to report.

Health & Safety - Trustee Hibshman had nothing to report.

Zoning & Planning - Trustee Katzman was not present and President Byro was not aware of any issues.

Subdivision - Trustee Williams had nothing to report. He did mention that there are some more street signs missing in the subdivision. Trustee Hibshman asked what was going on with the blue house that a condemned notice was sent on. Attorney Crull said that has now in the courts.

Old Business - President Byro discussed the grant update that Kevin addressed in his email. Application was submitted and we are waiting to hear. Final application was \$780,000 and \$195,000 is the Village's 25%. President Byro asked Clerk Payton to talk about the water meter update. Clerk Payton announced that Scott Nicol was hired as the new meter reader. President Byro and Clerk Payton have been trying to interview a second person to hire as backup, but there have been issues with setting up the interview. Clerk Payton also said she would call the lady at Core & Main to see when she can come and set up the equipment and train Mr. Nicol on how to use the equipment. Shortly before we hired Mr. Nicol, he got a new job, so he will need to schedule time off work if the person from Core & Main can't work around his schedule. Things are moving and hopefully the next set of billings will not need to be estimated.

New Business - President Byro talked about the Railroad Quiet Zone. He stated he talked to Kevin after the last meeting and told him that the village is interested in having a Quiet Zone. The topic is being investigated. The current task is to formulate a cost. As soon as Kevin can get an estimate he will let us know and we can move forward.

President Byro announced that he would like to go into Executive Session and asked someone to make a motion for that. Trustee Ward made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss part-time employees' salaries. Trustee Williams seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Trustees Kerns, Hopkins, Williams, Ward, and Hibshman voted yes. Trustee Katzman was not present. President Byro asked those who did not work for the Village to step out of the room and the board entered Executive Session.

President Byro asked for a motion to raise the hourly rate of pay for part-time employees from \$13 to \$16. Trustee Hibshman made a motion to increase the part-time hourly rate of pay from \$13 to \$16. Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion. President Byro asked for discussion. There was none. A roll call vote was taken. Trustees Hopkins, Kerns, Williams, Hibshman, and Ward all voted yes. Trustee Katzman was not present.

President Byro brought up the movement of some water lines. Trustee Ward brought up the \$89,000 we are getting in ARPA funds and that is an eligible expense. The EPA has been mentioning the problem lines on reports for a while now, and eventually they will say that they have to be replaced. Trustee Williams stated that Kevin needs to know where the mains are that need to be replaced. He has to give us an estimate, and then the project has to be sent out for bids. Once the bids come back, then the bids need to be approved. The process could take a while, and President Byro agreed, and said that the process needs to be started. Trustee Ward talked about 3 blocks that have 2" mains and they will need to be replaced with 6" mains. President Byro said he needs Curt to identify the mains that need to be replaced, so that they can give that information to Kevin and Kevin can put an estimate together. President Byro said he would discuss it with Kevin.

Trustee Williams asked if any of the sewer grouting got done. Curtis Loyd said that it did not get done. President Byro said that the people who were supposed to do it were too busy and it didn't get done. Trustee Williams urged the board to keep up with that. Trustee Williams asked Mr Loyd if he had specific manholes identified and he said that he did.

Trustee Hopkins asked about a heater. Mr Loyd stated that it was for the No. 2 well house. The old heater stopped working and one morning when Mr Loyd went into the well house, it was about 40 degrees. President Byro stated that the situation with the electrical and the switches in that well house needs to be dealt with. The chlorine coating the walls is a problem. Trustee Ward asked when the painters would start repainting Village Hall and President Byro said the following day.

Treasurer's Report – Trustee Kerns made a motion to approve the bills. Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion. President Byro asked for further discussion. There was none. Roll call vote was taken. Trustees Ward, Kerns, Williams, Hibshman, and Hopkins all voted yes. Trustee Katzman was not present. Bills were approved.

President Byro said he had nothing else. Trustee Williams made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. All voted in favor. President Byro adjourned the meeting at 7:24:30 pm.