

Village of Creston Minutes Tuesday, January 4, 2022

President Byro called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Trustees Hopkins, Katzman, Kerns, Hibshman, Ward and Williams were present. Attorney Crull was present.

President Byro introduced the minutes and asked for additions or corrections. Trustee Katzman requested a correction to the December minutes, which was noted and minutes were amended accordingly. Trustee Ward made a motion to approve and Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Minutes were accepted with emendation.

Visitors & Communication – President Byro announced a communication from Northern Illinois Disposal that stated they would not be doing any garbage pickups on Wednesday 1/5/22. The landfill would be closed on Wednesday 1/5/22 due to high winds, so garbage pickup would be pushed back one day, to Friday 1/7/22. Clerk Payton said she would post it on the website, and send a message out via Nixle.

Trustee Ward brought up a communication from a young lady in Creston who was not in attendance due to not feeling well. She would like to have an ice rink at Booster Park. The park district is on board with the idea, and Charlie Vardman talked to Trustee Ward about it. Mr. Vardman did not attend the meeting as he just returned from traveling and did not feel he should attend. The park district would like the village to donate the water, which the Village has done in years past. President Byro stated that he would be fine with that. President Byro asked if anyone did not agree with it, and no one voiced any opposition.

Attorney Crull said that he did not have a lot going on. He stated that he had been in contact with the gentleman from Comcast and asked him what proof he had about who damaged the cable/box and the gentleman said he had none, so that is where that matter stood for the time being. Atty Crull said that the only other thing was the two houses they were filing the complaints against.

Casper stated that he had approved a few permits. Moose Knuckle got a roof permit as they had a flat roof and they put a pitch on it. The person whose garage burned on Transit St is ready to move forward and rebuild the garage as it was. President Byro brought up the lot next to the railroad tracks. The owners of that lot put up a light that is very bright and there have been some complaints from residents on Woodlawn that the light is shining into their homes. President Byro asked if there are standards for lighting and Casper and Trustee Ward both said that there is. President Byro asked Casper to look into the matter.

Kevin Bunge was not in attendance. President Byro stated that the grant application had been completed. The library submitted a letter about COVID problems, and Trustee Hibshman also submitted a letter regarding the impacts on local businesses. President Byro stated that he thought everything was going well in regards to the grant.

Committee Reports

Finance - Trustee Hopkins had nothing to report.

Streets & Sidewalks - Trustee Ward said he wanted to bring up the ongoing complaints that residents have about train horns. The crossings are now all constant warning times, so he would like the Village to start pursuing the quiet zones. President Byro asked if the Safe Routes to School project was supposed to be a step towards that and Trustee Ward said it was. Trustee Ward suggested that Kevin draw up an estimate about what it would cost to achieve that so the Village would at least have an idea about what it would cost. President Byro said there may be new rules and Trustee Ward said the rules were pretty much the same. There is an entire process that has to be completed. Trustee Hibshman asked if it would be Main and Transit Streets only and Trustee Ward said it would have to be all three crossings. Trustee Williams said that Transit would need to be made a one way street, as it is so narrow, and then do medians on Main and Woodlawn. The ICC also has line of sight concerns with Transit St.

President Byro spoke about Curt Loyd removing snow now that winter has arrived, and the pickup is down. The brake lines are shot. They went out on Mr Loyd on 1/2/22 and he ended up having to have it towed to Prescott in Rochelle. Mr Loyd said he was going to try to put compression fittings on it to repair it, but every time he would grab a hold of it to cut/splice it, it would break. President Byro said it could cost \$700-800 to have it repaired. The truck is a 2003 and serious consideration should be given to getting a new truck, but with supply issues being what they are, there is no way of knowing how long it would take to get one.

Water & Sewer - Trustee Kerns had nothing to report.

Health & Safety - Trustee Hibshman had nothing to report.

Zoning & Planning - Trustee Katzman said he was not made aware of anything.

Subdivision - President Byro asked if anyone had heard anything about the subdivision. Attorney Crull said he had not heard a word. The Village is plowing the subdivision and President Byro told Mr Loyd to keep track of the hours he plows there.

Old Business - President Byro announced that the new water meter reading equipment has arrived and the next step is to hire the meter reader so we can get him/her trained on the new equipment. President Byro hopes that the new equipment will be up and running by February. There is a lady who will come up and train us on the new equipment. Trustee Williams suggested letting the residents know that the Village has hired someone and who that someone is by an announcement in the paper or a mailing. The Village does have a vest, and Trustee Ward suggested having Skylar Sarver make up a badge and Trustee Hibshman suggested putting something like "Creston Water Meter Reader" on the back, so the person is easily identifiable. Trustee Katzman suggested having a backup and President Byro stated that we are considering that. Trustee Williams suggested having David Haub come and train him on how he would read the meters. He cannot train the new reader(s) on the equipment because it is new.

New Business - President Byro brought up insurance. The insurance was supposed to be taken care of the previous month, so President Byro went ahead and signed it. It went up \$40. It was \$11788 and now it is \$11828. The board has to approve the paying of it, but President Byro went ahead and signed it. Mr Heal did talk about cybersecurity and Mr Kerns stated that he thought the Village should have some kind of cybersecurity insurance. Trustee Kerns made a motion to approve the payment. Trustee Hibshman seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Kerns, Katzman, Hopkins, Ward, Hibshman and Williams all voted yea.

Treasurer's Report – President Byro introduced the Treasurer's Report to approve the bills and introduced a late bill from Abe's for trimming trees and bushes. The bill is for \$1180. He requested this be added to the bills. Trustee Williams brought up some large revenue figures that were the result of billing errors, and those errors were corrected. Trustee Williams also wanted to know why the Village got such late bill from Lockard. The mowing was done in May, and it should have at least been paid the previous year. Trustee Williams would like him to have 60 days to submit his bill. Trustee Williams made a motion to approve the bills. Trustee Kerns seconded the motion. President Byro asked for further discussion. There was none. Roll call vote was taken. Trustees Ward, Kerns, Katzman, Williams, Hibshman, and Hopkins all voted yes. Bills were approved with all yeas.

President Byro said he had nothing else. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Williams seconded the motion. All voted in favor. President Byro adjourned the meeting at 7:24:00 pm.