

## Village of Creston Minutes Tuesday, June 1, 2021

President Byro called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Trustees Hibshman, Kerns, Katzman, Ward and Williams were present. Clerk Payton was also present.

Minutes from May 4, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were called for and noted: changing the amount needed for the Heal Memorial from \$100 to \$800 and clarifying that Reid Elliott is the chairman of the Planning Committee. A motion was made by Trustee Kerns to accept the corrected minutes and Trustee Katzman seconded the motion. The corrected minutes were approved with all yeas.

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

Atty. Crull was not present. Atty Tess arrived around 7:40 pm.

Building Inspector, Casper Manheim spoke about 5 letters going out. He is still working with a property on the corner of South and Main Streets regarding high grass. There were 3 properties he was working with regarding snow removal obstacles. 2 have complied and 1 is in process. There are 2 properties with cars that are not running. Casper will consult with Atty Crull and write them both letters. A property on S Grove St has a barn that is falling down. The owner has decided to tear it down. Trustee Ward mentioned that one of ~~Dave Brown's~~ the duplexes on Fremont has high grass. (Note: Dave Brown used to own that property, but no longer does.)

Village Engineer, Kevin Bunge reported that construction was progressing well on the Safe Routes to School project. He estimated the project to be about 80% complete. He stated that the holdup at this time is that the railroad has to send flaggers out, which has not happened yet. Trustee Williams asked if the railroad has to finish from the tracks to where the sidewalk stops. Kevin said no, the contractor has to do that, but they cannot do it until the railroad supplies the flaggers. Trustee Williams asked if the area where they put the sidewalk on the east side of Huebers, near the curb, is going to be asphalt. Kevin said no, it will be gravel. There is a low spot on the east side, and they are going to install a drain. Kevin said that when they went out for bids, a storm sewer design was included from about W Depot up to the tracks, had to be removed because there was no money for it. President Byro mentioned a pile of dirt that the Village will have to pay to remove because it is contaminated with asphalt and concrete. Trustee Williams asked if the curb installment has anything to do with the quiet zone that was discussed at the May 4 meeting and asked if the curb would go closer to the railroad tracks. Kevin said not at this time. Trustee Kerns stated it may move closer if a quiet zone is installed. Trustee Katzman asked if the gravel would be sealcoated once it is compacted, and Kevin said no. President Byro asked if there were any more questions about the SRTS project. No other questions came up, and President Byro told Kevin he got the communication regarding the storm sewers. Kevin said there is one spot where there is a connection to the sanitary sewer. Kevin said that we also need to grout the manholes. President Byro said that ~~Trustee Ward~~ Curt Loyd will put together a list. Trustee Katzman said he had 3 on his list: one by South St, one up by Main St and Cederholm, and one by Elliott's house near the alleyway. Kevin said they will check the map and see what needs to be done. They can do 6-10 in a day. Trustee Ward asked about spikes, since we got quite a bit of rain in the spring. Kevin said there are still spikes, but not as bad as previously.

### **Committee Reports**

Finance – Trustee Hopkins was not here. President Byro announced that the Village received a check for our first quarter tipping fees. President Byro also brought up getting the Village a credit/debit card. President Byro has already talked to the bank regarding this matter. The card would have \$1000 limit and would be for postage, flags, etc. Trustee Kerns asked if it was for parts, and President Byro said not unless it was an odd circumstance. President Byro asked for permission from the board to move forward with this. Penny Payton will keep the card at the Village and all purchases would have to have an accompanying receipt. President Byro asked for a motion, which was made by Trustee Ward, and Trustee Kerns seconded the motion. All voted yea.

Streets & Sidewalks – Trustee Ward stated that he didn't have much to report. Trustee Williams asked when the cut on Grove St where the water main was repaired would be fixed. Trustee Kerns asked if the county would do it, and Trustee Ward said that the county doesn't do those kinds of patch jobs. Curt Loyd said he could get Queens to do it. Trustee Kerns suggested getting the crew over her for an entire day. It was decided to get a list of projects together and give them a whole day's worth of work.

Water & Sewer - Trustee Kerns had nothing to report, but he had one thing to talk about during old business. President Byro brought up issues with the well house with controls not working right. Curt Loyd has had a couple of people over to look at it. The last person was an Auto Controls tech, who said the controller is bad. They tried to program names into it and couldn't. Curt Loyd said that he had a phase controller go out. Berg Electric looked at it, and they said they couldn't get breakers. Auto Controls came out and the phase protector went out. That has to be ordered and the phase controller is about \$103. There is no timeline as to when it will come in. The Village has only been running on one well since May 27. The new dialer will be \$830 installed. It has been calling Curt at all hours,

when there is no alarm. Trustee Williams made a motion to purchase the new dialer for \$830 and Trustee Ward seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken with all yeas. Trustee Ward then asked if the Mayor has spending authority up to a certain amount. President Byro said yes, up to \$5000. Trustee Ward suggested that in emergency situations, President Byro just make the decision and take care of it rather than wait.

Zoning & Planning – Trustee Katzman said the only thing he had to report on was the library annexation and he stated that they were postponing for a year due to the high price of lumber.

Health & Safety – Trustee Hibshman stated that the only thing he had to report on was the gray house/duplex on W. North St, west of Mark's Stuff and the post office. It is a disaster. He ran some kids off that were playing in the garage. Trustee Ward said that we have had issues with that property for a while. It was suggested that we have the property condemned. Casper said he can look into it. Penny Payton brought up that there is another property on North St that needs to be looked at. Trustee Williams said there is also a property on Depot St. The county owns one of the properties and Trustee Kerns suggested sending a letter to the county.

Subdivision – Trustee Williams said that he saw that they have mowed the front section of the subdivision like they usually do, but they have done nothing to the back part. He suggested that we may need to hire someone to mow that to make it look nicer. Trustee Kerns announced that the property is pending sale. Curt Loyd said that people from town are hauling yard waste, mulch, garbage bags and tires and tossing them behind the dirt pile. Trustee Williams suggested that the road be blocked. Trustee Ward suggested putting the illegal dumping issue on Atty Crull's list. Trustee Katzman brought up an abandoned white SUV that is parked up there. He asked if we have any jurisdiction over that and the answer was no. Curt Loyd said that he could have it towed.

**Old Business** – President Byro brought up the Dement Township Clean-Up Days on 6/12/21, 9am - 3pm & 6/13/21 from 9am to 12pm. President Byro asked if it was on the website and Clerk Payton said that it is on the website under the newly created "Local Events" page. President Byro said that updates and changes were being made to the website. There is no sign-up sheet for volunteers, but Penny Payton said to let the township know when people want to help out and they will gladly take the help. Penny Payton also said that it would be 9am to 3pm both days.

President Byro brought up the new meter reading equipment. The reader we have currently was purchased in 2009 and they stopped selling this series in 2015. There are no parts available and it cannot be repaired. The new reader is much improved with more functions, and different meters can be discussed at a later time. The handheld is \$5400 and the radio reader is \$1100. Steve Cooper from Core & Main said it can take 30-60 days to get it. Trustee Kerns brought up the fact that we have a company in this town that reads meters. President Byro said he had talked to Trustee Hibshman about coming up with a reader that would work if he had one. President Byro asked if anything would have to be changed and Trustee Hibshman said no. Trustee Hibshman explained how the process would work, and that no equipment or software was needed, and integration is free. It would cost \$1.50-\$1.75 per meter per month to do the reading, and that does not include running the bills. The village would still be responsible for that. The name of the company is Alexander Contract Services. Trustee Williams spoke about a way to integrate the meters with the computer so that the meters import that information into the computer and the reading part is bypassed, but we don't have that in place yet. There are 260 meters in town. President Byro said he would be interested in listening to a proposal. Trustee Hibshman said that if we have any issues, they have readers we could use. President Byro said that the job listing for a new meter reader will stay on the website and he has a job description we can add.

**New Business** - Treasurer Payton introduced the FY2022 Appropriations Ordinance. She asked everyone to look at it and think about what they want to do so the appropriations can be as close to actual spending as possible. The proposed appropriation for FY 2022 is \$ 594,650. That is about \$100,000 less than last year because the village isn't doing the big roadwork project, and sewer flow costs went down \$30,000. If more manhole covers need to be fixed, she needs to have an amount so she can put it into the appropriations so that the money can be spent. President Byro asked Treasurer Payton to explain how the appropriations work. Treasurer Payton explained the process to all present. Treasurer Payton asked anyone with concerns about the proposal to discuss it with her, prior to next month's meeting, as it needs to be voted on at next month's meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** – President Byro introduced the Treasurer's Report to approve the bills. Trustee Williams made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All voted yeas. President Byro said that the bills are approved.

Trustee Williams asked if the new meter had been put in at the Car Wash yet. President Byro said no, it has not been done yet. The Village has the meter, but it has not yet been installed. President Byro said he would talk to the owner regarding the installation.

President Byro asked if anyone had anything else to bring up. President Byro did announce that Booster Days will be held this year August 28 and 29. Trustee Hibshman announced that on Friday night they would have Skinners Amusements, a steak fry, music, and beer garden.

Curt Loyd asked if we were planning on replacing any more fire hydrants this summer. President Byro asked how many spares we have and Curt said we have none. There are 2 meters still to be replaced: Huebers and one by Janotas. Trustee Williams stated there is a hydrant on Depot that has a valve that doesn't work. Rebuild kits were discussed. Curt Loyd said that in regards to keeping a hydrant on hand, if we stay on good terms with Steve Cooper at Core & Main, we could have a hydrant in a couple of hours if we really need one.

A motion was made to adjourn by Trustee Kerns and seconded by Trustee Hibshman, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.