

Village of Creston Minutes Tuesday, June 7, 2022

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

President Byro introduced the minutes and asked for additions or corrections. President Byro presented a request for a correction on behalf of Trustee Ward regarding the amount of \$20,000 the Village was reportedly going to spend on the repairs on Main St. It should read "under \$20,000". Clerk Payton stated she would find that information and make the requested correction. Trustee Kerns made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Hibshman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Minutes were accepted.

Visitors & Communication – President Byro called for Visitors and Communications. There were none.

Attorney Crull stated he took a drive out past the subdivision to see how things looked so he could touch base with them regarding any work they plan to do over the summer. He said he has not heard anything from them. On the landfill issue, he had been putting some pressure on them as it has been a year and nothing has happened. He stated that they were told that it is in the final draft stages for the engineers. Once that final draft is done, it will go to the EPA. Atty Crull stated they would continue to monitor the situation and apprise the board of any progress. He stated that Casper had him send out another letter to a resident regarding an issue. President Byro stated that he saw someone out at the subdivision doing some mowing. Trustee Williams said that he saw that, too, and that they mow toward the front of the subdivision, but don't mow anything in the back. Trustee Williams asked who owns the Wicke residence. He brought up the high grass ordinance and that very little mowing had been done. Trustee Katzman stated that he saw online that someone had bought it for taxes, but other than that, he didn't know who the actual owner was. Trustee Williams stated that the property looks terrible. President Byro said he would have Casper look at it. Atty Crull asked for the address so he could look into who owns it.

Casper Manheim was not present.

Kevin Bunge was not present. He sent an email to President Byro. Kevin sent a report on the sanitary manhole grouting. He stated that design and permitting of water main replacement project was continuing. He was working with easements and would be asking resident on Ridge south of the tracks to sign a contract. He had heard no news from the DCEO regarding the Downtown Grants. The answer continues to be late Spring or early Summer. He stated they were prepared to work with Mike Megurdichian on the well rehab project, whenever and however necessary. He stated that work had begun on the Quiet Zone project, but he wanted to remind everyone that this would be about at least a year-long process due to the entities involved and the meetings required.

Committee Reports

Finance - Trustee Hopkins had nothing. President Byro did state that the Village received quarterly tipping fees.

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Ward was not present.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Kerns had nothing.

Health & Safety - Trustee Hibshman had nothing. Atty Crull stated he saw someone riding down the street on a mini-bike. He had a helmet on, but the child on the bike with him did not. Trustee Hopkins also stated there has been a 4-wheeler driving around town. President Byro said he didn't know what to do about it. Trustee Katzman stated that the rider went through the intersection of Grove and Cederholm doing about 45 mph. It was a young kid with no helmet.

Curtis Loyd brought up issues that the Village started having again with the water. He stated that the Village started having issues similar to the issues we had last year with the chlorine. Mr. Loyd stated that the 10" main showed over 3.5 mg/l of chlorine in the system, but 2-1/2 to 3 hours later, the chlorine was down to 0.5 to 1.0. He raised the starting of the wells by 22% so they would kick on quicker and more often. The chlorine held for a couple of days, but that morning the chlorine had dropped in 2-1/2 hours after the wells shut off. But they still had over 3.5 coming out of the distribution center. He said Casey's read over 3.5. He said there may be more complaints about the smell and high chlorine. Trustee Williams said that he can smell it at his house. He said they were raising the pumps daily for about a week, but Mike M. told him to hold off the last few days because they were getting so much high chlorine out of the system. As a result, there is ammonia back in the 10" main like there was last year. He wanted to avoid flushing the hydrants like last year. Mike M. seemed to think that they could avoid that, but time would tell. President Byro asked if the 10" main was the issue. Mr. Loyd stated that Mike M. seemed to think that was the problem. There was a 10" main going to the water tower and all the houses

in that vicinity hooked to that main. There is no direct line to the water tower. Trustee Williams asked why they tapped the main for those houses, and Trustee Kerns stated that was the best way to do it back when it was done. Trustee Hopkins stated that that wouldn't be allowed to happen now. President Byro thinks the line is part of the issue but replacing the line would be a lot of money. Trustee Hopkins asked Mr. Loyd if he was getting any complaints from people on that line, and Mr. Loyd said he hadn't heard any complaints at all. Trustee Hopkins stated he had been able to smell and taste the chlorine ever since the EPA required them to raise the chlorine levels. Trustee Williams asked if there was a continuous feed of chlorine into the 10" main and Mr. Loyd stated there was not: the chlorine only feeds in when the pumps are running. If the pumps run for 2 hours, then chlorine is pumping into the water for 2 hours. The problems began when the EPA required the Village to raise the chlorine levels. The ammonia levels increased when the weather warmed up, which means that more chlorine needs to be used. Mr. Loyd stated that no one really knows why this problem started. Mike M. went to seminars and tried to get answers, but no one seemed to be able to give him any answers.

Trustee Williams asked, in relation to Streets & Alleys, if the Village had gotten a bid on the repair job on Main Street. President Byro said no, that had not happened yet. President Byro stated that Queens did not feel they could do the job. It was too big for them. Mr. Loyd said he had someone coming out to look at it and give them an estimate. The company had done a lot of work in Rochelle. Curran out of DeKalb was also mentioned as an option. Trustee Williams asked if they realized there was a water main under that area, and Trustee Kerns stated that they wouldn't be digging that deep when they do the repairs, so the water main would not be an issue.

Zoning & Planning - Trustee Katzman had nothing. Reid Elliot had nothing, either.

Subdivision – President Byro mentioned that kids have been vandalizing the area back by the pump station. Mr. Loyd said they had also been painting the back side of the water tower. Someone had painted over the vandalism. There are no trespassing signs posted, and Trustee Williams suggested calling Sheriff Van Vickle and apprising him of the situation and asking if some deputies could come out and watch the area. Trustee Williams asked about putting a camera up there. Mr. Loyd stated that could be done if they had a camera. That was an option to look at. Mr. Elliot stated that they are going to install cameras at Booster Park.

Old Business – Railroad Crossing/Quiet Zone/Train Horns: President Byro put this on the agenda just because he didn't know what Kevin wanted to discuss. Per May 3 minutes, this issue was already discussed at length and the decision to move forward had been made.

New Business – FY2023 Appropriations – Treasurer Payton presented the ordinance at this meeting so it can be voted on next month. The total appropriations are \$659,255, which are much the same as they were last year. Treasurer Payton requested that the board look at the Utility Fund and see if anything needs to be added to that due to the well rehab project. Treasurer Payton stated she thought that the Village was good with the General Fund, and she stated she didn't know what the Village planned to do regarding the Motor Fuel Tax. President Byro said there were no plans to do anything with it. Trustee Williams asked what the new equipment covered. Treasurer Payton stated that it covers anything over \$5,000. Trustee Williams stated there was only \$5000 in there. Treasurer Payton stated that the Village doesn't buy much new equipment, so that is why there was not a lot of money in that fund. Trustee Katzman stated that there was money in the fund last year to buy a new truck, but the purchase never happened. Treasurer Payton stated that money for new equipment can always be put back in. Someone will just need to let her know. Trustee Kerns stated that the truck should have been purchased a couple of years ago when new trucks could be purchased for more reasonable prices. Trustee Hibshman asked if the amount for consumables was higher than last year. Treasurer Payton stated that it was due to having to buy more chlorine. She also stated that the sewer flow had gone down to \$30,000. The Village used to appropriate about \$95,000 for that. President Byro stated he had nothing else.

President Byro asked Trustee Hibshman how the Outdoor Market was going. Trustee Hibshman said it was going well. The weather had not been to cooperative early on, but the next weekend it was scheduled was supposed to be nice. The vendors seem happy, and since it doesn't cost them anything to sell their wares, they don't seem upset if they don't make a lot of money.

Treasurer's Report – President Byro stated that he noticed Jack Kerns had repaired the place on North St, as well as the area down by Casey's. President Byro stated it looks better than it did before. Trustee Kerns made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken. Trustees Kerns, Katzman, Hopkins, Williams, and Hibshman voted yea. Trustee Ward was not present. Bills were approved.

President Byro said he had nothing else. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Katzman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. President Byro adjourned the meeting at 7:24:09 pm.