

Village of Creston Minutes Tuesday, March 7, 2023

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

Trustee Hopkins introduced the minutes and asked for additions or corrections. Trustee Kerns made a motion to accept the minutes. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by Trustees Hibshman, Hopkins, Katzman, Kerns, Ward, and Williams.

Visitors & Communication – Trustee Hopkins asked if there were any visitors or communications. There were none.

Attorney Crull said that the first court date for the letters that were sent out regarding the properties that need to be cleaned up or demolished was scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023. They were able to get service on about half of them, which is higher than normal. He said that he will see who appears on that date and default judgments will be pursued for those who were served and did not appear. For those who were not served, they will have to be served via publication or as per an alias summons to try and serve them somewhere else. Attorney Crull and Casper were able to talk regarding some of the properties and Casper has gotten compliance from the residents at 422 W North St. A couple of cars have been moved and the residents also reached out to Attorney Crull. He told them that until Casper tells him they are 100% in compliance, they will need to appear in court. Regarding the landfill, some drainage questions are still being worked through and he hopes to have an answer by summer.

Casper Manheim was not in attendance.

Kevin Bunge reported that they opened bids on the water main project and 8 contractors placed bids. The low bidder was Queens Trucking and Construction. Their bid came in at \$138,016. They were expecting the bids to be around \$150,000 - \$160,000. Prices ranged all the way up to \$233,000. The \$138,016 is for the use of 6" mains. Queens was asked for add-on cost for 8" mains, which Kevin believes should be used, and the add-on cost was \$18,878 for a total bid of \$156,694. Bidders were asked to be IDOT pre-qualified, and Queens is not, but that was asked for so that the Village would get bids from good contractors. Queens has done a lot of work for the Village so we know they will do good work. The ARPA grant is around \$89,000, so anything above that amount the Village will have to cover from other funds. Kevin strongly recommended that the Village do the project and that the project be done with the 8" mains. That size pipe is desperately needed and will prepare the Village for future repairs and upgrades.

Kevin also spoke about the Quiet Zone. Some plans were given to Trustee Ward and Trustee Ward marked them up and gave them back to Kevin. Kevin's staff is updating those plans. Kevin asked Trustee Ward if he had a contact beyond John at UP because Mark left 5 months ago and Kevin could not find anything in Mark's file regarding who the contact should be. Trustee Ward said that ICC will need to enter into the discussions as well. Kevin said that John acts like he should be the lead. Trustee Ward said that would only be the case if John has some kind of agreement with ICC because UP doesn't approve or deny the Quiet Zone. That is up to RA and ICC. Kevin said John is the person they have been dealing with for a few months. Trustee Ward said that he would find out who the ICC contact is. Kevin said he hoped to set something up within a month or so to move things forward. He wants to get everyone at a table and discuss where we are and what still needs to be done.

Committee Reports

Finance - Trustee Hopkins had nothing.

Streets & Alleys – Trustee Ward said the only thing he had was the sealcoat project that is either out for bids or going out for bids soon. Terry at Ogle County asked the Board to pass the MFT Resolution that states that the Village is authorizing the expenditure of MFT funds for the project. Right now, the estimate for the project is \$92,000. Not all of it has to be paid for with MFT funds but it allows Treasurer Payton to spend up to \$92,000 in MFT money on the project. If the cost comes in lower, an adjustment report is filed at the end of the project stating how much was actually spent. IDOT makes sure that you don't over-extend yourself based on the MFT funds that you have available. The MFT Resolution needs to be passed at this meeting so that Trustee Ward can get back to Terry, and then Terry can contact IDOT. Trustee Kerns made a motion to approve the MFT Resolution. Trustee Katzman seconded the motion. Trustee Hopkins asked for further discussion. There was none. Roll call vote taken. Trustees Hopkins, Hibshman, Kerns, Katzman, Williams and Ward all voted yes.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Kerns said that the engineer for the library reached out to him regarding water connections and he asked if Kevin had spoken to him. Kevin said that he spoke with Nick and Kevin said he thought everything was clear. They spoke regarding retention and what the Village expects, and he said he doesn't foresee any problems. Kevin said that Nick did have a question regarding the code, which says that the Village will make the connection and charge them for it. Kevin said that was fine, but he wasn't

sure if that was still the way it was handled or not as that code is from 20 years ago and was pre-subdivision. Trustee Ward said it was written that way so that not just anyone can tap into the water mains. Kevin said that Nick needs to know what to put in his plan.

Health & Safety - Trustee Hibshman stated that Skylar Sarver had concerns about the tree next to his building. A large branch has already fallen off and Trustee Katzman stated that it did some roof and gutter damage to the building. Trustee Ward asked if it was ours or theirs. Trustee Katzman said it is the Village's. The sidewalk is all bowed up around the trunk. Trustee Kerns said it should probably be taken down. Trustee Hopkins said that the Village will look into it, determine who it belongs to, and then move forward.

Zoning & Planning – Trustee Katzman said he didn't have anything, and Reid Elliot said he had nothing, either.

Subdivision - Trustee Williams said he had nothing.

New Business – Trustee Hopkins introduced the resignation letter from Mike Megurdichian, the Village water operator. He stated that President Byro had been in conversation with Mr. Megurdichian about other people and exploring other options regarding the water operator position and Trustee Hopkins stated that President Byro would talk more about that at the next board meeting.

Trustee Hopkins moved on to discussion regarding a cleanup dumpster. He said he had not heard anything about that. He asked if that was the Ogle County program. Trustee Williams stated that the Village discussed it last year and decided not to do it. Trustee Hopkins said they had done it previously and there were a lot of tires and paint put into the dumpster and the Village can't be hauling those items because of the liability issue. The only way to combat that is to have someone standing watch over it at all times. Trustee Williams said that in previous years someone had pushed a car into the dumpster. Trustee Kerns stated that there hasn't been a dumpster in the Village in 20 years. Trustee Katzman mentioned to Trustee Ward that the place next to his rental units has a trailer full of tires sitting on the property. The resident that used to live at 117 N Main St moved into that property about a month or so. Trustee Ward said that Casper should be made aware of the situation and Trustee Katzman said he would talk to Casper about it. Trustee Ward said he had a contact information for the property owner should Casper need it.

Trustee Hopkins moved on to the ARPA Water Main Project bids, which Kevin already discussed. Trustee Hopkins said that the bid needed to be approved. He stated that everyone seems to be satisfied with Queens and the work they have done for the Village. He asked for a motion to accept the bid, and that discussion needed to be had regarding the upsizing from 6" mains to 8" mains. Trustee Williams asked what the bid amount was and Kevin reiterated that the initial bid was \$138,016 and the add-on for the use of 8" mains was \$18,878 for a total of \$156,694. Kevin stated that the add-on was only a 15% increase in cost. Trustee Kerns asked how many valves and intersections would be involved in the project. Kevin said that it runs 3 blocks: from Cederholm and Main 2 blocks East, and 1 block up from Prairie to Grant St. There is 1027 feet of water main, a new hydrant, 5 new valves and boxes, and 9 services are being replaced. Trustee Kerns asked for clarification and that means moving them from the old main to the new main. Restoration is also included. Trustee Kerns asked if restoration included repaving and fixing the grass and putting everything back in order and Kevin said yes. Curtis Loyd asked if they would be removing that 2" line and Kevin said that they typically abandon it. If it is in the trench they will pull it, but if it is not, they won't dig it up. He said that they will disconnect it to make sure it isn't interconnected with anything. Trustee Ward said that they will have to keep it live until they are told to do the cutover for the services. Trustee Hopkins stated that \$89-90,000 is paid for with grant money, and the amount coming out of Village funds will be about \$66,000. Trustee Ward said it is about \$60 per foot, which is a good price. Kevin offered that if the Village doesn't run the 8" mains now, more money will have to be spent later to run an 8" main over there because the 6" main will be insufficient. Trustee Hopkins asked if 8" mains would be enough to feed everything to the East. Kevin said that if a large piece goes over there, a separate feed will be needed, but the 8" will handle a lot. A 6" main would handle that block. Trustee Ward stated that there is about a 75% increase in output between the 6" and the 8" mains. Kevin said that the pipe is only 1/3 bigger, but the capacity is significantly larger. Trustee Williams asked if there was an 8" main to connect to. Kevin stated there was a 4" main on Main St, and a 4" main on Grove St, and a 4" main at Prairie and Grant Sts. Trustee Kerns asked if that would affect water pressure and Kevin said it would not. Trustee Kerns was worried about lowering pressure and Kevin said that would not happen. Kevin said it is basically a static system and that is what the water pressure is based on, and if Curtis has to open up a hydrant, the pressure will stay higher because the mains will have higher capacity. Trustee Hopkins asked for thoughts or a motion. Trustee Kerns asked where the paving was being done. Trustee Ward stated it was being done North of the tracks. Trustee Kerns asked if the water main project needed to be done before the paving project and Trustee Ward said either that or omit that section and pick it up next time when the South side is paved. Trustee Hopkins asked again for a motion. Trustee Hibshman made a motion to approve the ARPA Water Main Project. Trustee Hopkins asked if he wanted to include the add-on for the 8" main and Trustee Hibshman said yes. Trustee Ward seconded the motion. Roll Call vote taken. Hibshman, Kerns, Katzman, Williams, Ward and Hopkins all voted yes.

Old Business – Street Resurfacing – Trustee Ward already discussed that in his report. He said the main thing that needed to be handled was the MFT Resolution, which was already voted on.

Trustee Hopkins asked if anyone else had anything to bring before the board. No one spoke up.

Treasurer's Report – Trustee Kerns asked about garbage pickup. He wanted to know if it stated specific times in the contract. He said that sometimes they come at 5 am and sometimes they come at noon. He thought that in the contract we signed, there was a range of hours given. Trustee Kerns said that he isn't putting his garbage out the night before because he doesn't want it blowing all over the place, and then the disposal company will complain because the garbage is all over the place. Clerk Payton said she would check the contract and see if specific times were listed. Trustee Kerns felt that 5 am was too early for them to be driving through the neighborhoods. Trustee Ward said that a couple of weeks before, they picked up the recycling but missed the garbage. He said he called them and they sent someone the next day to pick it up. They asked if there were tree limbs or anything else blocking it and he told them no, because they emptied the recycling bin that was right next to it. Reid Elliot said he thinks they might pick the recycling up early in the morning because the winds aren't blowing quite as hard at that time. There is no rhyme or reason to how it is picked up and Trustee Hopkins stated it might be a staffing issue. Attorney Crull said he wasn't defending anyone, but he had clients who worked for the disposal company and sometimes they had to work their shift and someone else's. Trustee Kerns talked about a time when there was a lot of commotion about people keeping their garbage out by the street and now we are telling them to leave their garbage out by the street the night before. Trustee Kerns said it is his opinion that the garbage should be put out the day of pickup, not the night before. Trustee Hopkins said we would look into the contract and go from there.

Trustee Hopkin asked if anyone had any questions about the bills. There were no questions and he asked for a motion to pay the bills.

Trustee Hibshman made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Kerns seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken. Trustees Hopkins, Williams, Kerns, Hibshman, Katzman and Ward voted yes. Motion passed.

Trustee Hopkins said he had nothing else. Trustee Ward made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Katzman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Trustee Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 7:27:23 pm.