

Village of Creston Minutes Tuesday, May 4, 2021

President Williams called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Trustees Byro, Hopkins, Kerns, Katzman and Ward were present. Atty. Russell Crull and Clerk Haub were also present.

Minutes from April 7, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Trustee Kerns to accept the minutes and Trustee Ward seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with all yeas.

Visitors & Communication – President Williams received an e-mail from a resident regarding cars speeding on Main Street. President Williams had the resident reach out to the Ogle County Sheriff as the village has no means of enforcing the speed limits, and the resident was told that the Sheriff won't enforce village speeding ordinances. The Sheriff offered to set up traps and give warning tickets, but they will not give speeding tickets. Doug Kroupa from the Creston-Dement Library board was present to answer any questions about the library's building project. Larry Cich brought up concerns about his water bill. He feels he is being overcharged for his water. Discussion was had about estimates that were used for January and February, as well as having Mr. Cich's water meter tested for accuracy. President Williams informed Mr. Cich that if the meter tested that it was reading accurately, Mr. Cich would be charged for the cost of the new meter. Mr. Cich said he will think further on the matter and let the board know what he decides to do. John Hays spoke about the noise ordinance. He specifically referenced the trains and wanted to know what could be done to reduce or eliminate the train horns. Trustee Ward spoke on this issue, and explained that train horns are federally regulated, and explained the different hurdles that the village would need to overcome in order to become a quiet zone.

Atty. Crull stated he is working on a truck route ordinance as well as a stop sign ordinance. He requested a list of all locations. He also said that subdivision maintenance season is approaching, so he would address that as well. He said he noticed that there were for sale signs for individual properties as well as for the subdivision as a whole, so at least some progress has been made in that area.

Building Inspector, Casper Manheim spoke about 3 permits going out for fences in town. He spoke about a violation regarding the fence being down at the car wash and he reported that the fence has been put back up. He reported that letters went out regarding snow removal obstacles on N Main and S Grove Streets.

Village Engineer, Kevin Bunge reported that construction was underway for the Safe Routes to School project. He asked for patience as the project is being completed. President Williams asked if a retention wall was going up near the crossing on Transit St and Mr. Bunge responded yes, south of the tracks.

Committee Reports

Finance – Trustee Hopkins had nothing to report.

Streets & Sidewalks – Trustee Ward stated that this isn't the year the village does sealcoating of the roads, so the village will have to get someone to patch the area where the water main broke on Grove St. There is a big pothole on Beck Rd that also needs to be repaired, as well as a pothole in the alley behind the Post Office. Trustee Ward suggested that Curt Loyd contact the company we have used in the past to do this work. We will need to get a map of the areas that need to be repaired.

Water & Sewer - Trustee Kerns had nothing to report, but he did bring up the community clean-up day that Dement Township has put together. The dates are June 12, 9am to 3pm and June 13, 9am to 12pm. The township has asked for participation from the village to assist with this. President Williams suggested a sign-up sheet to make sure everything is covered, and also asked about posting notices. It is open to residents of Dement Township. Residents can bring TVs and other electronics for recycling. Microwaves will also be accepted. Dement Township will store the electronics until Ogle County has their recycling weekend. Chemicals and paints will not be accepted.

Zoning & Planning – Trustee Katzman said the only thing he had to report was the library annexation and that would be discussed under new business.

Health & Safety – President Williams asked if anyone had anything to report. Trustee Ward mentioned that mosquito season is fast approaching. Reid Elliott saw Clark Environment out in the village, so they are already working on it.

Subdivision – Trustee Byro had nothing to report.

Old Business – William Heal Memorial. Trustee Byro reported that he has been talking to the family. The Village has discussed putting a plaque up in Village Hall, which the Village will pay for. The cost would be roughly \$100 or so. The family is purchasing a bench for

Booster Park and they will cover that cost. No date has been set yet. It will most likely be sometime this summer, on a Saturday and Sunday. Trustee Byro said they will let the family decide the date, and the planning is going well.

New Business – Swearing in of the New Officers by Atty Crull. Trustee Byro was sworn in as Village President. Jennifer Payton was sworn in as Village Clerk. Curt Ward and Steve Katzman were sworn in as Trustees. President Byro announced two vacant trustee positions, and President Byro nominated Mark Hibshman to fill one of the empty seats, for the 4 year term. Trustee Kerns moved to approve the nomination of Mr Hibshman and Trustee Ward seconded the motion. The nomination was approved with all yeas. President Byro asked Wayne Williams to serve the remainder of his term as Trustee and Mr Williams accepted. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Williams and Trustee Kerns seconded the motion. The nomination was approved with all yeas. Trustee Hibshman and Trustee Williams were sworn in. President Byro thanked Trustee Williams for his work as Village President, and he also thanked Deanne Haub for her work as Village Clerk.

President Byro discussed committee assignments. He said that if there are any issues, to let him know. President Byro announced that Reid Elliott has agreed to be the new Planning Commissioner.

President Byro discussed a letter the village received from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding mandatory water testing. This test is for monitoring free ammonia, nitrates and other types of chemicals. President Byro has discussed this with Mike Megurdichan, the village operator. Mr. Megurdichan has a plan to implement this, and he also has the equipment needed to do the testing. A letter outlining this plan is being submitted to the IEPA. President Byro said that he hopes this will only be a quarterly test, and that money will need to be budgeted for the testing. President Byro stated that nothing needs to be added to the water, and Trustee Ward stressed that there is nothing wrong with the water in the village. This is simply a change in requirements and regulations.

President Byro brought up the apparatus used to read our meters. It was purchased 10-12 years ago. It has been recalibrated and repaired multiple times, and the village has been told that it is outdated and needs to be replaced. The village will need to look at replacing it in the next month or two, and the cost will be between \$5000 and \$6000. Trustee Williams asked if the apparatus we have now is the most up to date, and President Byro said no, it is the original apparatus purchased 10-12 years ago. Deanne Haub explained that the yellow box is for radio reads and the dark gray one is for the touch pads.

President Byro also announced that the current meter reader is resigning in July. He said he will stay to train his replacement.

Trustee Williams asked if we have identified where the 2" mains are in town. They are mentioned in the IEPA report. Discussion was had about where these mains were located and President Williams stated we need to get a permit from the IEPA to replace them. President Byro stated that we would find out where the 2" mains are located.

Reid Elliott spoke regarding the Creston-Dement Public Library annexation. He stated they have met a couple of times and have recommended that the village board approve the property being annexed into the village, and that the zoning be changed from A1 to C1. Trustee Williams stated that the library would have to have it rezoned by the County. Trustee Ward stated that that step was not necessary as the village has a Zoning and Planning Commission. Atty Crull explained that because a special meeting was held to recommend rezoning and no one objected to the rezoning, the village board can do the annexation and rezoning as part of the same process. If the annexation and rezoning pass, then Atty Crull would file the paperwork with the County. President Byro asked if anyone would like to make a motion. Trustee Ward made the motion. Trustee Kerns seconded the motion. Atty Crull suggested that someone make a motion to accept the annexation and rezoning for the library. Trustee Hopkins made the motion, and Trustee Katzman seconded the motion. Roll call vote passed the motion with all yeas.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to approve the report and to pay the bills for the village. Trustee Kerns seconded the motion. A roll call vote passed the motion with all yeas.

President Byro asked if anyone had anything else they would like to bring up. Trustee Ward announced that Creston-Dement Library will be holding a blood drive 5/20/21 at the Fire Department. It is the library's event. The fire department is simply giving them space. Trustee Ward said that information is available on the library's website and people can sign up there. Kristi is in charge of it.

Mark Hibshman announced the market that will take place on 5/15/21. 27 vendors have signed up. It will take place 9am to 2pm, and will be the 1st and 3rd Saturdays per month through September. Vendors are not being charged for space, but they are asked to donate something for a raffle or giveaway.

A motion was made to adjourn by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hopkins, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.