

Village of Creston Minutes Tuesday, October 5, 2021

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

Visitors & Communication – President Byro asked if there were any visitors that wanted to speak and he recognized Ed Crawford. Mr. Crawford spoke about a complaint that was brought to his attention on 9/9/21 regarding trees he had dropped on his property. The complaint was not about the tree in the back, which he had already taken care of, but the trees on the side of his house. At the time of the meeting, he had taken care of those trees, but he had planned for people who need firewood to heat their homes and shops to help with the process of removing the trees because it makes them feel like they were contributing. He said he did not know who made the complaint and he didn't care. He explained more about the process of removing the trees and what would have happened had he not taken care of it, and he wanted to make sure that the complaint was dealt with adequately and that there was no more that he needed to do. President Byro responded that he and Mr Crawford had spoken about the issue a couple of times, and that everything was resolved satisfactorily. Mr Crawford acknowledged that he appreciates all the work that the Trustees do for the village. Mr. Crawford once again asked for confirmation that the complaint had been addressed satisfactorily and President Byro responded that it had been. Mr Crawford then brought up other issues and things got heated. Mr Crawford was asked to leave, and Mr Crawford and his party left the meeting without further incident. As Mr Crawford was leaving, President Byro thanked him for cleaning up his grass and the trees in his yard.

President Byro introduced the minutes and asked for additions or corrections. Trustee Ward made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Minutes were accepted.

President Byro announced that Rochelle Municipal Utilities was holding a recycling event in Rochelle on 10/16/21 for all RMU customers. It will be an electronics recycling event.

President Byro also announced that the village would be doing hydrant flushing the week of 10/11/21. Trustee Ward stated that we should get an announcement up on Facebook. Clerk Payton stated that she had already put an announcement on the Village website, and that she would also be sending out an announcement via Nixle, and would get an announcement posted on Facebook. Curt Loyd stated that he hopes to have all the flushing done in one day, on 10/11/21. Mr Loyd also announced that the chlorine levels had stabilized and the readings had been consistent for 3 days. Trustee Williams said that he still smelled some chlorine in the water at his house and President Byro felt that the smell should be going away soon.

Attorney Tess said that all he had was the farm lease, and that would be handled later in the meeting.

Casper talked about three properties on Woodlawn south of the bank. He said that the residents had moved out and left garbage and other debris. He said that letters had been sent and that the owners had complied with the request to remove the garbage and deal with high weeds. He had sent a letter out regarding cars on 303 E Depot. Some more letters will be going out about high weeds. He spoke about the home on Depot behind the Quonset hut and the high weeds had been taken care of, but there was still a junk Jeep on the property that needs to be taken care of. He said that most people have been good about complying with the requests to deal with high weeds and other issues.

Kevin Bunge said they were working on a schedule in regards to the sewer manhole grouting. He also brought up the lot that the library owns on Main St between Records and Memories and the railroad tracks. Someone has asked about water and sewer connections for that lot. Someone wants to put up a small building for spray tanning on that lot. Kevin got involved when someone inquired about how they could hook up to sewer and water. There is a sewer main north, but they don't have access to it. They would need an easement either from the neighbor or across the village lot. A water line crosses in front of where their building would be, so they would have access on their side of the sidewalk, but there would be a disruption involved. Kevin said he would prefer they use an ejector pump for the sewer because it gets across the street easier, and they can pick any elevation. They are high enough that they could do it by gravitation as well, but it would cost more for them to do it that way. President Byro said that the people who are interested asked him what they needed to do, and he referred them to Kevin for information. The people who are interested don't even own the lot at this point. They would need to purchase the lot before anything can be done. Trustee Williams asked if the village had passed a resolution stating that we weren't going to charge for utility hook-ups for a year, and Trustee Hopkins said that it was building permits over \$15,000, not utility hook-ups. Kevin said that he would give them general information and tell them that they need to go to the village to move any further with the process. Trustee Ward said the easiest thing would be to come across the record store lot, but they would need to get an easement to do that. They would also need to put up a letter of credit or a bond because they will be tearing

up 2 streets and a sidewalk. President Byro said their next step is to come to the planning commission. Trustee Ward and Trustee Hopkins both said that they have to at least have a contract on the property in order to approach the planning commission. President Byro did mention that the library is having a fundraiser and they are selling that lot as part of that fundraiser. Kevin also spoke about the grant opportunity that is due in January. Minimum amount you can request is \$250,000 and the maximum you can request is \$3 million. It is specifically for downtowns. It has to be improvements for a street with commercial presence on it currently. Applicants also have to state that they have been negatively impacted by COVID. There is more narrative to this than there normally is, but it is because they are trying to steer it toward recovery. It is going through DCO, so the process is much more reasonable. It can be used for sewer and water improvements, street improvements, etc. It mentions lighting, sidewalks, bicycle areas. Applicants don't need a match, but a match is encouraged. Applicants get additional points if they have matching funding. Mark talked about a packet that the Grabers gave him with plans for downtown revitalization. Trustee Hopkins said that the cost in 2008 was between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million from the tracks to Cederholm St, and that was just for the street. President Byro said it was a good idea, but it was cost prohibitive.

Committee Reports

Finance - Trustee Hopkins had nothing to report. President Byro stated that Treasurer Payton gave him a note that said that we are in line to get ARPA funds. The first half would come in about a month or so and the second half will come next year. Kevin said it has to be bondable projects. It cannot be used for maintenance. It has to be capital improvements. President Byro said there is a list of things you can do and things you cannot do. President Byro suggested that people look it over and present any ideas they may have.

Streets & Sidewalks - Trustee Ward asked Curt Loyd about a drain that is not draining. There is a blockage just west of the sidewalk by the head bushes between Ed Elshoff's house and the neighboring house. Curt Loyd did not remember the actual footage, but he isn't sure where it goes to. The pipe could be broken, collapsed or smashed. Kevin Bunge asked for the exact location and it is right near village hall in front of Midwest Signs. Mr Loyd said that they tried to blow it out with RMU and got about 100 feet and it stopped. Mr Loyd said they opened all the manhole covers and looked and couldn't find anything. Trustee Ward suggested scheduling Queens to come over and dig it up. President Byro agreed that that may be the only option at this point.

Water & Sewer - Trustee Kerns was not present. President Byro said that he was still waiting to hear about the water meter reading equipment. He said that we have two people who live in town who are interested in the position and Trustee Ward asked if interviews would be scheduled. President Byro said he would prefer to wait until the new equipment arrives to hire someone. Mr Loyd said that he talked to Steve Cooper and Mr Cooper was supposed to make a phone call to find out when we could expect it, and he said he has no idea when it would arrive. President Byro said he spoke to someone at the IML Conference regarding the equipment and they gave the impression that they did not know when the village could expect the equipment either.

Health & Safety - Trustee Hibshman reported about the Moose Knuckle getting robbed. Trustee Hibshman said the next Saturday he was at Headon's preparing ribs about 4:30 am and he noticed a black SUV parked in front. He snuck out the back and around the building to try and get a plate number, but the light around the plate was too bright and he couldn't read it. As he got closer it sped away. Trustee Hibshman let Brian Van Vickle know. Rumor has it that the crew got arrested in Yorkville while robbing a place. A few other places in the area also got robbed. Trustee Hibshman said they had the police come out the next weekend and sit for a couple of hours, but nothing happened.

Zoning & Planning - Trustee Katzman had nothing to report

Subdivision - Trustee Williams said that they mowed again. He said it looked like they mowed between the curb and the sidewalk, but he didn't know if they sprayed or not. He said it did look better.

Old Business - President Byro stated that Atty Tess had the farm lease ready to sign, but Mr. Petry was not in attendance. Trustee Williams asked if anyone called him to let him know to be there, and President Byro said that he had spoken to Mr Petry a couple of days prior and he was aware of what was going on. Atty Tess said that the board could approve the lease and President Byro could get his signature later. The term of the lease is March 2022-February 2023 with a right to renew for one year for the same price, terms and conditions. It is at \$310 per acre, payable on March 1st of each year. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to accept the lease. Trustee Katzman seconded the motion. President Byro asked for discussion. There was none. Roll call vote was taken. Trustees Katzman, Hopkins, Ward, Williams and Hibshman voted yes. Trustee Kerns was not present.

President Byro presented the ordinance to change the sewer rates. Discussion was held in August, and it was delayed a month to make sure everything was correct. It has already been agreed to, so it just needed to be passed. Trustee Hibshman made a motion to pass Resolution 100521. Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion. President Byro asked for discussion. There was none. Roll call vote was taken. Trustees Katzman, Ward, Hibshman, Williams, and Hopkins all voted yes. Trustee Kerns was not present.

New Business - President Byro announced that people had been asking about trick or treating in the Village. He stated that we usually follow Rochelle's lead and they are having it on Halloween night 5pm to 8pm. President Byro said masks are optional. President Byro also brought up Build Illinois Main Street. He said he could send everyone a copy of literature so that people can review it. Kevin said he would send the Power Point to President Byro so he can distribute it as it is a good way to present the material. President Byro brought up IEMA/FEMA funding opportunities. It turned out that the deadline was 9/30/21, so there was no need for further discussion.

Treasurer's Report – President Byro stated to Trustee Williams that he is really having trouble dealing with Jerome from Abe's. He said that Jerome comes when he wants to, not when he is needed. Trustee Williams suggested using A-1. President Byro wondered if Trustee Williams had any suggestions for how to get him to respond faster. He does good work, he just isn't as available as the village needs him to be. Trustee Williams suggested approaching it from the perspective of if he cannot do it, we will find someone else who can.

President Byro introduced the Treasurer's Report to approve the bills and asked for discussion. There was none. Trustee Ward made a motion to approve the bills. Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Trustees Ward, Katzman, Hibshman, Williams and Hopkins all voted yes. Trustee Kerns was not present. Bills were approved.

President Byro said he had nothing else. Trustee Hopkins made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Hibshman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. President Byro adjourned the meeting at 7:45:30 pm.