

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARGENTA, ILLINOIS
#17/03/06 R05
MONDAY MARCH 6, 2017 @ 6:00 P.M.
VILLAGE HALL, 330 N WARREN STREET, ARGENTA, ILLINOIS

Call to Order: Mayor Luedke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Mayor Luedke and Trustees Hanna, Crowder, Kaufman, Pagel, Barker and Bowman were present. Also in attendance were Deputy Wendell, Street Superintendent Ken Smith, and Clerk Sherry Koszesza. Residents in attendance were Polo SeEVERS. Visitors were Lt. Antonio Brown and Deputy Elgin Hawthorne both of the Macon County Sheriff's Office.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2017, #17-02-20 R04
2. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2017, #17-02-27 SM01
3. Approval of Disbursements #17-03-06 D05
4. Approval of Bank Reconciliations #17-03-06BR05

- Trustee Bowman moved and Trustee Barker seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Hanna =	Yes
Crowder =	Yes
Kaufman =	Yes
Pagel =	Abstain from 02/27/27 Minutes, Yes to remainder
Barker =	Yes
Bowman =	Yes

Motion carried.

Public Comment: There was none.

Recognition of Visitors: Lt. Brown and Deputy Hawthorne were here from the Macon County Sheriff's Office to explain the proposed Safety Tax. The Macon County Sheriff's Office has been asked to cut their budget by over 7%. 85% of their budget is personnel. 4 Specialty positions are being eliminated. Those deputies will be going on regular patrol. The tax is ¼ of 1%. Food and medicine would not be taxed. Goods like clothes and restaurant meals would be taxed. They are here to ask the support of the Board. They are also going door to door to ask for community support. There is also a Macon County Resolution that all of the funds will stay with the Sheriff's Department. Residents can get more information on the Macon County Sheriff website or Facebook page.

Department Reports:

1. Law Enforcement Report. There was nothing to report. Deputy Wendell is currently at an investigation and was unavailable for the meeting.
2. Village Staff Reports. Street Superintendent Ken Smith got some of the trees taken care of and stumps are gone. He has had the VAC truck out cleaning things while the weather is

good. Mayor Luedke pointed out the letter from the Department of Public Health recognizing Perry Welker for compliance in the Fluoride program.

3. Mayor's Report. Mayor Luedke said that on 3/28/17 there will be someone from Senator Chapin Rose's office in town to meet with residents and answer any questions. Mayor Luedke has been appointed to the Macon Co Planning Commission.
4. Attorney's Report. There was nothing to report.

Old Business:

Discuss/Vote on 2017/2018 Appropriations. Trustee Pagel has some questions. He asked for some addition numbers after the packets were sent on Friday. He has been doing some hiring at work and thinks that we should have a net savings even with giving some raises. He said that 3% - 5% is customary. He pointed out that Perry and Larry have never gotten a pay increase. He said that in Decatur, a person with a water license would start at about \$80,000.00 per year. He said we would have about a savings of \$8500.00 per year when Ken gets his license. He asked if MFT would only be for oil and chip. He would like to see more devoted to trees. He doesn't know if \$20,000.00 is enough. He would like to add another \$10,000.00 to tree trimming. There are a lot of trees and a lot of big trees. He said that we aren't big enough to get grants to take out trees. If we have big street projects and have a water main break we need to have more money in overtime. Trustee Barker said that the money has to come from somewhere. Trustee Bowman asked what happens if we want to spend it but don't have it? Where would the money come from? Trustee Pagel said that anytime he needs a question answered he gets an answer right away. He said that employees should get more than an inflationary increase. Trustee Kaufman said that he got some additional figures as well. He said that if the guess holds that we will only spend about 70% of what is appropriated. He looked at income including the tax levy increase and we will have more income. The past several years have had some really big projects and he doesn't think that we will hit the total that we are appropriating. Trustee Kaufman has no issue with raising salaries 4%. Trustee Barker asked why there was nothing that says the 4%. Trustee Bowman said that taxes were raised to pay for employee raises. Mayor Luedke said no it is not. Taxes were raised to bring our restricted funds up so that they could cover costs. Trustee Barker said that we are raising taxes to pay for these things. Trustee Kaufman said that even with the projects that we have talked about we are appropriating \$15,000.00 less than last year. He said that the most he has seen in the last few years is 81% of the appropriations spent. Trustee Pagel said that even next year if we give raises there is still \$8900.00 left over. Trustee Barker said that Decatur is a bigger town that is why their employees get paid more. Trustee Kaufman said that they get the same license and have a lot more employees. We only have one employee. Kevin said that Ken does his 40 hours and has also managed to get his water license. Kevin said that he agreed with the 2% raise because it was at least something. He would hate to see Ken go somewhere else and have to hire someone else. He would like to reward our employees and try to keep them. Trustee Pagel said that if we put out an ad for Ken with what we are paying now, we would be hard pressed to get someone. Trustee Barker said that last week we discussed 2% and we should stay with that. Trustee Pagel said that he thinks 4% is fair. Trustee Kaufman doesn't have an issue with 4%. Trustee Barker said if the money isn't there we would have to cut money from somewhere else. If we put all the money into the wages then we can't take that away from them. Trustee Barker said that we are appropriating more than what we will take in. Trustee Barker said that we appropriated over \$470,000.00 more

than what we made and the auditors told us that we can't do that. Trustee Kaufman said that those numbers were not correct. Trustee Barker said that we pay the auditors to figure this. She said that we have not cut \$470,000.00 from this budget. Trustee Kaufman said that we have only spent 67% of the appropriations and asked if he was just talking to himself. Trustee Barker said that we haven't had the money. Trustee Kaufman said that the actual income and the expenses are \$15,000.00 closer this year than they were last year. Trustee Kaufman said that taking care of employees is a good idea. He said that there is padding everywhere. Trustee Barker said that we have let sidewalks, roads, trees and a lot of things go because we didn't have the money. She said that we thought we had agreed on the wages last week. Trustee Kaufman said that we will not be adding to the total wages. Trustee Pagel said that we will have a net gain after June. Trustee Barker said that she doesn't work on what ifs. Trustee Pagel said that it is all what ifs. Trustee Bowman asked if Mayor Luedke was thinking about giving Ken a raise after he gets his license. Mayor Luedke said that the Board should think about it. He should get a raise to equal Perry's wage. Trustee Pagel said that it needs to be a bigger raise. Trustee Barker said that Perry and Larry have gotten that since they started working for the Village. Trustee Pagel asked if they have ever gotten a raise. Trustee Hanna said that he gave the raise of 2% just because the employees need an increase. Trustee Pagel asked what if we need to hire someone. Recruiting is extremely costly. It would cost to get someone to fill in. Trustee Barker said she wishes we had the money to do this. Mayor Luedke moved on to discuss the trees. She asked if anyone thinks we should raise the tree amount. Trustee Hanna said that Ken thought \$20,000.00 would be enough. Trustee Crowder said that if we went over the appropriated amount, \$3,000.00 contingency isn't much. Trustee Pagel said that it will take more than \$20,000.00 to do what we need. There will be significant liability in leaving some of the trees. Trustee Barker said that maybe we should put more into the trees and take some off of the roads. Trustee Pagel said to put the trees on hold then. We will leave the trees at \$20,000.00. Mayor Luedke asked if they wanted to vote or if they wanted more time to think.

- Trustee Barker moved and Trustee Hanna seconded to approve the 2017/2018 Appropriations.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Hanna =	Yes
Crowder =	Yes
Kaufman =	No
Pagel =	No
Barker =	Yes
Bowman =	Yes
Luedke =	No

Motion carried.

New Business:

Discuss/Vote on extending electric contract with Constellation (Nania) Energy. We have been contracting with Constellation (formerly Integrys) for about 3 years. There are 3 options that Constellation gave us. They have done a comparison for us with 2 other companies. Mayor Luedke can check with Ameren also. This will be tabled.

Closed Session:

Open Session:

Adjournment

- Trustee Kaufman moved, and Trustee Hanna seconded, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Hanna =	Yes
Crowder =	Yes
Kaufman =	Yes
Pagel =	Yes
Barker =	Yes
Bowman =	Yes

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by Clerk Sherry Koszesza