

**Village of Pawnee
Board of Trustees
Minutes of April 14, 2008**

Call to Order

- The meeting convened at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call

- Village Clerk, Cynthia Kramer, called roll
- Trustees in attendance: Steven Gudgel, Tom Bowen, Terry Woodcock, Lindsey Young and Bill Miller
- Trustee/s absent: Phillip Thompson
- Also in attendance: Village Attorney John Myers, Police Chief Bowsher, Mr. Lyle Rigdon, Pawnee Superintendent of Schools, Stacey Ashbaker

Recognition/Comment/s of Visitor/s

- Stacey Ashbaker, Webmaster, Village of Pawnee Website. Ashbaker helped trustees log on and then guided trustees and other village officials through the newly updated website. While the upgraded site has a better look, she noted some items remained the same such as the village map, links and resources, of which, some need to be updated; new items, such as a private log-on for trustees and a photo album were added however, the message board was retired. Ashbaker asked village officials to take a couple of weeks to look the site over and to take advantage of all the site offers. Ashbaker departed at 7:42 p.m.
- Lyle Rigdon, Pawnee Superintendent of Schools stated he attended primarily as an observer. He noted however, the school is delaying the move of the crosswalk nearer to Nelson Street due to weather conditions and to lessen confusion for parents and students as the school year is rapidly ending. He added that the new crosswalk location would be ready for student use in the fall. During the Streets Committee report, Mr. Rigdon and trustees briefly discussed village schedule for the oil and rocking of streets. Streets Committee Chairman Tom Bowen said oil and rocking will start sometime after the end of school. Mr. Rigdon said the school district would like to oil and rock the student parking lot and the road behind the school sometime in June and would work with the village in order to maximize school dollars.

Clerk's Comments

- Minutes of March 24, 2008 were presented for review and approval.
Motion made by Trustee Gudgel to approve the minutes of March 24, 2008 as presented.
Second by Trustee Young
Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes
Motion Carried (5-0)

Gas and Water Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Woodcock

- Gas and Water Committee Chair Terry Woodcock noted the gas rate for May 1, 2008 is at an all time high, up 4.1 cent per therm from April to the May rate of 119.19 cents per therm.
- It will be an overnight stay for Mike Howard to attend the April 30 – May 1 UGM spring meeting in Effingham. The MuniGas Program will be discussed however; Trustee Woodcock stated it might be September before the Village of Pawnee is able to participate in the program, as that will require stabilization in the bond market and the economy in general.
- During the week of April 21, the Illinois Commerce Commission will be reviewing records and spot-checking gas lines. Village gas engineer Lindsay Enloe will be present during the review and spot-checking process.
- On July 2, 2008, there will be a presentation at 7:30 p.m. by Lindsay Enloe for Gas Committee members and emergency first responders regarding gas explosions. This will become an annual event with the Pawnee Fire Protection District.
- The Water Committee met April 3 with members of the Pawnee Fire Protection District and the village engineer to review the flushing schedule for hydrants. Hydrants will be color coded to denote hydrant pressure. Updated maps, color coded as well, have been given to Greene and Bradford, Inc. (village engineer) for review, maps then will go to Mike Howard and the Pawnee Fire Protection District.
- Flushing of hydrants will be done on a flexible schedule, in order to accommodate hours of volunteer fire district personnel, throughout the month of May. Flushing of hydrants will move eastward beginning at Comanche Village.

- Chairman Woodcock notes the village is experiencing some problems with new construction as contractors are running over meter pits. Woodcock stated she would meet with contractors in a proactive effort to stop damage to village work. She noted however, if contractors damage or destroy any village work, they would be required to pay for any damaged or destroyed village work.
- Chairman Woodcock requested attorney John Myers to prepare an ordinance approving a service agreement with Greene and Bradford, Inc. and that said ordinance be listed on the agenda for the April 28, 2008 Village Board meeting. The contract pertains to engineering service for the 2008 water main program.

Park Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Woodcock

- Seeding and fertilization of park grounds is finished.
- A larger trash dumpster has been requested for the village garage, as it is needed. It is less expensive to order a larger dumpster rather than adding pick-ups dates.
- The School Board granted the village permission with proof of insurance, to use school grounds for the annual Forth of July fireworks display. Committee Chairman Woodcock requested attorney John Myers prepare an ordinance approving a contract with Central State Fireworks and that said ordinance be listed on the agenda for the April 28, 2008 Village Board meeting.
- The Park Committee is still working on means to alleviate the dog feces problem at the park. She noted that the village ordinance pertains not only to parks but to private property as well. There is an ordinance and a fine can be assessed. Residents may view the ordinance on the village web site. The committee is looking for a dog “station” at the park that would provide materials for pet feces removal.

Personnel & Finance Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Bowen

- Bills payable was presented for review and approval.
Motion made by Trustee Bowen to approve bills payable with one addition, an invoice from Utility Gas Management for natural gas received by the village in March for \$114,587.84.
 Second by Trustee Gudgel
 Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes
 Motion Carried (5-0)
- The committee is reviewing insurance quotes, life and dental costs appears to remain the same, and however, there is a possibility the committee will review another insurance provider. Employees will be able to use either St. John’s or Memorial and there may be some out-of-pocket costs reduced under this other plan.
- Nick Howard’s last day is April 16. He did not want a retirement party but he will be present at the April 28 village board meeting. We received only one internal application regarding Nick’s position. The committee will interview that applicant. (Bowen) stated that Calvin Aumiller will assume the position as Streets Superintendent and that he would like to move Andy Lee moved to the second position. Open application remains an option.

Streets, Alleys and Sidewalk Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Bowen

- (Bowen) stated he would like to have placement of the omnibus purchased from Arnold Monuments and replacement of the sidewalk on the south side of the village square completed in time for Pawnee Prairie Days.
- He again approached board members about taking down the large fir tree (used as the village Christmas tree) on the square noting that the tree continues to die off more and more with each passing year. He would like to replace it with a healthy smaller tree that would be easier to decorate for the holidays.
- The oil and rocking of streets will commence after the end of the school year. Primarily east-west streets will be oiled and rocked with the exception of Thirteenth Street from Rutledge to Route 104.

Police Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Miller

- Motion made by Trustee Miller to approve the police report as presented.
 Second by Trustee Woodcock
 Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes
 Motion Carried (5-0)
- Trustee Bill Miller brings request for annual Daily Bread donation for \$2500 (\$1500 to defray cost of meals, \$1000 to help cover administrative costs). Trustees noted amount already listed in general donations. Trustees will approve the request next month.

Sewer Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Thompson

- Trustee Phillip Thompson was unable to attend the meeting; however, he did send a written report. The report noted that Gary Eby is healing but will soon see his physician to see if he will need surgery to repair the injury suffered while attempting to collar several loose-running dogs.
- The EPA permit for Pawnee's water treatment plant has not yet arrived. He notes that Divernon has not received its permit either.
- His budget for the Sewer Department has been submitted; however, the village may need to do some work on the San Terra Lift Station over the next couple of years. He asked Gary Eby to get CMT (Crawford, Murphy & Tilley) to look at renovation/upgrade costs from an engineering perspective. CMT was also asked to look at what help or matching funds may be available for any work. (Thompson) noted that money is budgeted this year and next year for engineering fees. Returning to the subject of the lift station, Thompson noted that while still functional, the San Terra Lift Station is poorly constructed, and when issues with the station occur, village employees are at risk when changing out equipment. It is really a safety issued based on the design of the existing lift station.

Zoning Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Gudgel

- Zoning Committee Chairman Steven Gudgel announced yet another Zoning Board resignation, that of Dale Gilbert, citing health reasons. The board previously received letters of resignation from Zoning Board Chairman Virginia Naufel and Zoning Board member Garth King. (Gudgel) noted that work with Greene and Bradford, Inc. updating the village comprehensive plan will wait until individuals are appointed to fill the Zoning Board vacancies. In the meantime, the four remaining members of the Zoning Board can continue to conduct Zoning Board hearings. There is a Zoning Board Hearing, Patton variance request, scheduled for April 24 at 7:00 p.m. Any Pawnee resident interested in serving on the Pawnee Zoning Board should contact Trustee Steven Gudgel or leave contact information at the village office. The Zoning Board meets as needed and meetings are held on Thursday evenings.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business/Correspondence

- Congressman John Shimkus' Traveling Help Desk will be at the Pawnee Village Hall from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 28. Mary Ballard of Shimkus' staff will be available to listen to concerns and help with problems.

Mayor's Comments

- None

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Trustee Gudgel to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Trustee Young

Voice Vote Taken: Ayes-5 Nays-0

Motion Carried (5-0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2008. The next scheduled meeting of the Pawnee Village Board of Trustees is Monday, April 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia S. Kramer
Village Clerk