

**Village of Pawnee
Board of Trustees
Minutes of June 9, 2008**

Call to Order

- The meeting convened at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call

- Village Clerk, Cynthia Kramer, called roll
- Trustees in attendance: Steven Gudgel, Phillip Thompson, Tom Bowen, Terry Woodcock, Lindsey Young and Bill Miller
- Also in attendance: village attorney John Myers, Andy Goleman – Sangamon County Board, Priscilla Fenelon, Jill Fenelon, Amy Howell, Tom and Stacy Ashbaker, Joe and Bev Neisler and son Wyatt, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dilworth, Chad Brenden

Recognition/Comment/s of Visitor/s

- Andy Goleman, Sangamon County Board, made his annual visit, updating village board members on issues such as the county search for a new health department building. The board is looking for a facility in the medical district. The Criminal Justice Study regarding over population of the Sangamon County Jail noting that the county will have to build a new correctional facility at some time. The county will have to find funds to lease or purchase new voting machines since the Populex voting machines purchased in 2006 with grant funds covering the 1.7 million dollar cost do not have the final approval of the State Board of Elections. The vendor (Populex) is not getting federally required testing of a process to allow electronic counting of mail-in absentee ballots. He noted the county has a balanced budget every year, adding that county land portion of resident's taxes went down last year, but he did describe the economic situation as a "perfect storm" listing high inflation, tax caps, sales tax decrease, fewer tourists, meaning the county may have to tighten its belt and may have to look at cuts.
- Bev Neisler, acting a spokes person for a number of Fourth Streets residents brought several complaints regarding the "burn pile" stating it to be considered a "major environmental and health issue." She noted that the burn pile smolders causing smoke to seep into their homes and at times deteriorating the quality of life for both indoor and outdoor living. She added that the Fourth Street residents are seeking a peaceful, responsible means of solution to the problem and presented the village with a petition. Mayor Manning and trustees briefly discussed the village ordinance regarding open burning and noted that it is difficult to monitor the burn pile all of the time but noted that most people do honor the village ordinance and rules and regulations for use of the burn pile. Mrs. Neisler replied that not monitoring the burn pile and wind change does cause most of the problem and she commended the village for the wonderful things that it does for its residents. She added that she would volunteer her time to find a solution. Trustee Phillip Thompson noted that finding a workable solution does not come without cost to do alternative things. In the mean time however, trustees voted to hold a public hearing on the issue and scheduled the date for Thursday, June 19 at 7 p.m. at the Pawnee Fire House and suspended burning until after the hearing or until a solution is found.
- Stacy Ashbaker, a fourth street resident and designer of the village web site remained to discuss the web site and to answer any questions or to help board members with any problems relating to the site.

Clerk's Comments

- Minutes of May 26, 2008 were presented for review and approval.
Motion made by Trustee Thompson to approve the minutes of May 26, 2008 as presented.
Second by Trustee Miller
Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-present, Phillip Thompson-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-present and Miller-yes
Motion Carried (6-0)

Gas and Water Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Woodcock

- There were only two shut-offs for the month of June.
- Gas rate continues to increase from 123.9 cents per therm for the month of June to 134.5 for the month of July. Last year at this time, the rate was 107.5 cents per therm.
- There will be a Gas Safety presentation July 2 at the Pawnee Fire House. All gas, water, police, dispatch employees, village ESDA personnel and village engineers must attend as the safety presentation is mandatory, state required every year. Dinner is scheduled at 7 p.m with the safety presentation to follow at 7:30 p.m.

- The village and fire department will not be flushing hydrants this weekend due to Prairie Days. Flushing commences on June 21 with the continuation of the northeast quadrant.

Park Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Woodcock

- Employees are weed eating and mowing. Schultz Park is being booked-up for the summer and booking include all three areas, park, pavilion and ball diamond.
- (Trustee Woodcock) stated she would not be opposed to foregoing the “movie in the park” this summer in order to use the funds to purchase park equipment for the Washington Street village owned areas.

Personnel & Finance Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Bowen

- Bills payable was presented for review and approval with the addition of two bills, \$2965, cleaning of the water tower and \$69.06 for postage machine update.

Motion made by Trustee Bowen to approve bills payable as presented with the noted additions ending June 5, 2008

Second by Trustee Thompson

Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes, Thompson-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes

Motion Carried (5-0)

- The village received 29 applications for the Public Works position. The committee narrowed the selection to three, including two current village employees. The village also had three employees show interest in transferring to the Street Department.

Motion made by Trustee Bowen to transfer employee Jeff Schober from Gas and Water to Street, Alleys and Sidewalks as a lateral move, no change in salary.

Second by Trustee Woodcock

Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes, Thompson-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes

Motion Carried (6-0)

Motion made by Trustee Bowen to approve the hiring of Chad Brenden as an employee of the Gas and Water Department effective June 23, 2008 at a salary rate of \$15/hr.

Second by Woodcock

Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes (with the cravat to review the salaries of other village employees), Thompson-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes

Motion Carried (6-0)

Bowen stated that Brenden has extensive work and experience in gas, plumbing, heating, excavation, and supervision and that he thought Brenden would be a good fit for the village.

Motion made by Trustee Bowen to approve Ordinance 08-09, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PREVAILING WAGE FOR THE VILLAGE OF PAWNEE.

Second by Trustee Thompson

Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes, Thompson-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes

Motion Carried (6-0)

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

- Employee Calvin Aumiller was asked to supply Trustee Bowen with a list of sidewalk work.
- There was a request to oil and chip an alley between Fourth and Sixth Street
- Trustees Bowen and Woodcock are working with Pawnee Schools on “Safe Routes to School”.
- Washington Street preparation is done for oil and chipping.
- With the expanse of water the last couple of weeks, there were water problems between Thirteenth and Tenth Streets, and Eighth and Jefferson Streets, southwest corner.

Police Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Miller

- Police reported submitted for review and approval

Motion made by Trustee Miller to approve the police report as presented.

Second by Trustee Gudgel

Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes, Thompson-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes

Motion Carried (6-0)

Sewer Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Thompson

- The State Police Training Facility lift station was damaged by lightening. At this time, the lift station is running manually and we are staying ahead as best as we can right now.

Zoning Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Gudgel

- There will be three (3) zoning hearings, all variances, on June 19, scheduled at 7, 8 and 9 p.m.
- Trustee Gudgel stated he would like to amend the Village Zoning Ordinance regarding square footage to expand from 480 square feet to 576 square feet for a rear yard accessory building. He added that due to hearing costs he would like to increase the fee from \$150 to \$300 and to have an ordinance regarding kennels.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business/Correspondence

- None

Mayor's Comments

- The village received a thank-you card from Millie Henry, Daily Bread
- He inquired if student summer employees were being utilized to help change out gas and water meters. Trustee Woodcock stated that summer employees were working on simple water meter change-outs.
- Pawnee Area Chamber of Commerce would like to place a sign on the west entry. Trustee Woodcock noted that the Chamber should contact Ameren CIPS for permission of sign placement.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Trustee Gudgel to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Trustee Woodcock

Voice Vote Taken: Ayes-6 Nays-0

Motion Carried (6-0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2008. The next scheduled meeting of the Pawnee Village Board of Trustees is Monday, June 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia S. Kramer
Village Clerk