

**Village of Pawnee
Board of Trustees
Minutes of September 22, 2008**

Call to Order

- The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call

- Clerk Cynthia Kramer called roll
- Trustees in attendance: Steve Gudgel, Tom Bowen, Terry Woodcock, Lindsay Young and Bill Miller
- Absent: Trustee Phillip Thompson
- Also in attendance: Police Chief Bowsher, Officer Shawn Burnley, Blake Whitson
- Pledge of Allegiance recited

Recognition/Comment/s of Visitor/s

- Pawnee Police Officer Shawn Burnley, spokesperson for Pawnee Police Department personnel and in civilian dress, informed board members of police department personnel, including dispatchers, intent to join a union. He noted that employees met with representatives of two unions and employees made the decision to opt for the PBPA (Police Benevolent & Protective Association) of Illinois. He noted that employees are not keeping their intent a secret and that they are seeking certification. He stated the intent is not about money, but for many of us it would mean legal representation whereas Mayor Manning replied that village attorney John Myers would defend for nothing. Burnley countered by explaining with so many things out there, as examples, taser, pursuit, officer involved shooting, once an individual is finished with the village they can then go after an officer through civil law. The village received a packet from the Illinois Labor Relations Board, letter of procedure and forms, requesting the village remit an alphabetized list of police department employees as well as job descriptions. Also enclosed was a notice to be posted at the police department. Manning had the notice posted however; all other items in the packet will go to attorney Myers for review before any action is taken. Manning clearly stated that he was not anti-union; however, he found the letter to be somewhat adversarial, noting that this is first time procedure for the village as well.
- Blake Whitson, Drug Awareness Chairman, Springfield Elks Lodge #158. Mr. Whitson informed trustees that Elks Lodge 158 would like to nominate Pawnee Police Officer Shawn Burnley as a candidate for the Enrique Camarena Award. Camarena, a special agent with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) was tortured and murdered in 1985 in Mexico while investigating Mexican drug traffickers. Officer Burnley was selected for nomination due to his service to the community, officer duties and his current responsibility for the newly developed K-9 unit for the police department. Whitson also stated he would need a letter from the police department and the village citing Burnley's qualifications.

Clerk's Comments

- Minutes of September 8, 2008 were presented for review and approval.
Motion made by Trustee Gudgel to approve September 8, 2008 minutes 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)
Motion made by Trustee Woodcock to amend the Minutes of August 25, 2008, under the Gas and Water Committee Report. The water rate increase should be noted as 5 percent, not as 4.45 percent in both areas mentioned.
Second by Trustee Bowen
Roll Call Vote Taken: Gudgel-yes, Bowen-yes, Woodcock-yes, Young-yes and Miller-yes
Motion Carried (5-0)

Budget Comparison and Investment Report: Village Treasurer Glenn Smith

- Treasure Glenn Smith presented the Budget Comparison and Investment Reports for July 2008 and August 2008 for review and approval
Motion made by Trustee Bowen to approve the July 2008 Budget Comparison and Investment Report as presented.

Second by Trustee Young

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

Motion Carried (5-0)

Motion made by Trustee Bowen to approve the August 2008 Budget Comparison and Investment Report as presented

Second by Trustee Gudgel

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

Motion Carried (5-0)

- Treasurer Smith noted that overtime for the Street Department was getting a little high.

Gas and Water Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Woodcock

- Chairman Woodcock began her report with some good news, gas rates for the month of October were down from the month of September by 33.1 cents per therm. The September rate was 152.0 cents per therm dropping to 118.9 cents per therm for October. However, the rate was 94 cents per therm last year at this time.
- Last meeting Woodcock informed trustees there might be another opportunity for additional hedging for natural gas purchasing however, there does not seem to be any need to do so, and the village will not hedge anymore that what is currently hedged.
- A meeting was held with the office manager and the billing clerk to go over current policies and procedures. The committee still has a few questions regarding landlord and tenants, which counsel is reviewing.
- Sixty-one (61) red letters went out. Utility customers will have until close of business Friday, Oct. 26 to make full payment or enter into written agreements for payment. Shut-offs will take place the following Monday A.M. Red letters go out on the 20th of the month, or due to calendar date, the Monday following the 20th. Residents in the arrears will have 3 to 4 days in order to make payment or agreement for payment. If payment or an agreement is not made, shut-offs will follow three to four days later. Exceptions may be made by committee and board determination. Residents should be aware that during winter months shut-offs can be performed when the temperature is 20 degrees or above for three consecutive days.
- As a reminder, the water rate increase becomes effective Oct. 1, 2008.
- During the last board meeting trustees approved the purchase of parts and materials for the water main completion and approved labor for the Washington/Penn Street section. We now need to approve labor for the water main curve extension near Schultz Park.

Motion made by Trustee Woodcock to approve labor for Gary Hill for \$9,680 for the water main curve extension.

Second by Trustee Miller

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

Motion Carried (4-0)

Park Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Woodcock

- Chairman Woodcock reported that the village finally received a bid for resealing/repair of the Schultz North Park walking path. Trustees previously approved an amount up to, but not exceeding \$5000 for the resealing/repair work. The bid received from PH Broughton and Sons came in under that amount at \$3965. Once the repair is made, the village will start proceedings to recoup part of the cost from the previous contractor.
- Mayor Manning adding to the Park Committee report noted that the village is experiencing some major problems with the electrical system for the square. As such, he requested Paul Mottar to evaluate the system and to give a cost estimate to fix. Mayor Manning received an estimate of \$9000, \$6600 for materials and \$2400 for labor. Manning also noted that Ameren will consolidate and upgrade some of its system and will be working with Mottar coordinating. What Ameren does is at its expense. Manning told trustees, he would have Mottar attend the next board meeting to explain repairs and to answer any questions trustees may have. Manning also noted there is a problem with water as well and that the current system is not conducive to health or safety either. There is approximately \$18,000 left in the budget for the improvement of parks.

Personnel & Finance Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Bowen

Motion made by Trustee Bowen to approve bills payable, as of September 19, 2008 as presented

Second by Trustee Thompson

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

Motion Carried (5-0)

- (Bowen), Joe Greene and Calvin Aumiller did a drive through the village, looking for hot spots. They are going to put together a comprehensive plan. The village has drainage and storm sewer problems. We need to increase the ability to get rid of massive amounts of rainwater; however, the village is old, old clay tiles, damaged, some with tree roots growing into them. We also will have to address the lift stations, they are very outdated and we band-aid them as much as possible. We may have to bond money to get some of these things done.

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

- The road work is nearly completed in Clareshire
- Employees are preparing for winter. We have been addressing a number of issues around town and were are going to have to address the issue, weeds and dumping, on the property off Wynant Street.

Police Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Miller

- Chief Bowsher informed trustees that she had a personnel issue, one that needed to be addressed by the board.

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Motion made by Trustee Bowen to enter executive session to discuss personnel.

Second by Trustee Miller

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

Motion Carried (5-0)

Trustees entered executive session at 8:48 p.m.

Return to Regular Session

- Trustees' re-entered regular session at 9:10 pm. No action was taken

Roll Call

- Clerk Cynthia Kramer took call roll.
- Trustees present: Gudgel, Bowen, Woodcock, Young and Miller

Sewer Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Thompson

- No report given

Zoning Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Gudgel

- A zoning hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall. Mike Tomso is requesting to build a fence over a utility easement.
- U. S. Cellular has informed the village that village property will not meet their needs. U. S. Cellular is looking at contacting the school, as they would like to put the tower on school property.
- Regarding problems with drainage, there is a problem with the Ernie Schrage property located behind the apartments, even though Joe Greene looked at the problem with farm fields and drainage. There is a problem with the storm drain behind the apartments on Grooms Street, whether it has collapsed or tree roots have grown into it, it is not taking care of the water coming off the field.

Unfinished Business/Correspondence

- None

New Business/Correspondence

- None

Mayor's Comments

- Mayor Manning asked Trustee Gudgel if he knew where the Pawnee Area Chamber of Commerce was going to install their sign at the west end of the village. Gudgel said he thought they were going to install the sign to the rear of the village welcome sign and near the old event sign. Attorney Myers recommended that the village claim the Chamber sign as a village sign.
- Mayor Manning told trustees that Tom Maupin, Tom's Tree Service, spoke to him regarding the letter he received stating that the village could not accept large trees (trunks and limbs) at the burn pile for disposal. Manning noted that Maupin does a lot for the village and as Mayor; he would like to work with Mr. Maupin in finding a solution that would benefit the village and Mr. Maupin.

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion was made by Trustee Woodcock to adjourn the meeting.
Second by Trustee Thompson
Voice Vote Taken: Ayes-4, Nays-0
Motion Carried (4-0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m. on Monday, September 22, 2008. The next scheduled meeting of the Pawnee Village Board of Trustees is Monday, October 13, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia S. Kramer
Village Clerk