

Village of Pawnee  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of October 12, 2015

Call to Order

- President Clarke called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

- Deputy Clerk Cynthia Kramer called roll.
- Trustees in attendance: Gary Whitson, Phillip Thompson, Patrick Murphy, and David Skinner and Troy Squires
- Absent: Trustees Cara Burnley and Troy Squires, Clerk Devona Martin
- Also in attendance: Village Treasurer Kelly Thein, Chief of Police Jan Bowsher, Village Engineer Joe Greene, Greene and Bradford, Inc., Sewer Department Supervisor Gary Eby, Brenda Masters-Stout, CPA, Fleming, Tawfall & Company, Pawnee resident Scott MacDonald, Village attorney John Myers (arriving at 7:05 p.m.)

Recognition/Comment/s of Visitor/s

- **Scott MacDonald.** As a resident of Pawnee, Mr. MacDonald came before the board with numerous complaints about an adjacent neighbor, one that has at least three dogs, making life difficult for him or his wife to enjoy their property; impacts delivery of goods; and that he was bitten by one of the dogs on his own property. The neighbor also has a pig, and appears to be building rabbit hutches. He also fails to maintain or keep up the property, especially the yard area. The police have been to the property quite a few times. MacDonald noted that he was not the only neighbor upset about the conditions, that other property owners were ready to file a petition. Attorney Myers noted that the adjacent neighbor, given MacDonald's account, could have numerous violations and if the village deemed it necessary, the matter certainly could go to court. Myers suggested the Mayor speak with the Chief of Police in order to ascertain what was going on with the renter and the condition of the property. Chief Bowsher stated she was not aware of the exact number of times the police were called, however she told MacDonald that she personally would take care of the matter.
- **Joe Greene, Greene and Bradford Inc.** Greene informed trustees bids were received for the 104 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project. The projected cost of the project was \$175,000, however, the lowest bid received came in at \$283,636 as the lift station must be raised by 10 feet. Greene stated that he has attempted to contact both the Sangamon County Planning Commission and FEMA. FEMA has yet to respond to a request for additional money to raise the elevation. He asked trustees to put the project on hold until he is able to speak with FEMA.
- **Brenda Masters-Stout, CPA, Fleming, Tawfall & Company.** Masters-Stout presents the annual audit for trustee review and approval. She noted revenues were down somewhat as were expenses. The village does a very good job keeping expenses down, and is about \$59,000 to the good. The Gas and Water Funds are stable, to the good of \$19,000 in Water and \$169,000 in Gas. As auditors, we are seeing a really curious thing, in almost every community we serve, people are using less water in general and to a lesser degree, natural gas. Treasurer Kelly Thein and Library Director Bennett Bess do a really fine job. She noted the pension thing is still as issue, while the village is paying in what IMRF directs, the village is still underpaying. Masters-Stout stated that she would file the Illinois Annual Report next week and that if trustees had any questions that she would be happy to go over the audit with them.

Motion made by Trustee Murphy to approve the annual Audit for the Village of Pawnee.

Second by Trustee Skinner

Roll Call Vote Taken: Whitson-yes, Thompson-yes, Murphy-yes and Skinner-yes

Motion Carried (4-0)

Clerk's Comments

- Minutes of the September 28, 2015 board meeting were presented for review and approval.

Motion made by Trustee Skinner to approve the September 28, 2015 minutes as presented.

Second by Trustee Murphy

Roll Call Vote Taken: Whitson-yes, Thompson-present, Murphy-yes, Skinner-yes and Mayor Clarke-yes

Motion Carried (5-0)

**Personnel & Finance Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Skinner**

- Bills Payable presented for review and approval. Trustee Skinner stated that he did not have a finalized list of bills payable, it would be available at the next regular board meeting. However he would like the board to authorize the treasurer to pay all bills due as of this date.

**Motion** made by Trustee Skinner to authorize Treasurer Kelly Thein to pay all bills due.

Second by Trustee Thompson

Roll Call Vote Taken: Whitson-yes, Thompson-yes, Murphy-yes, and Skinner-yes

Motion Carried (4-0)

**Gas and Water Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Whitson**

- No report given

**Police Committee Report: Interim Committee Chair, Mayor Clarke**

- No report given

**Streets, Alleys and Sidewalk Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Squires**

- No report given

**Sewer and Parks Committee Reports: Committee Chair, Trustee Thompson**

- Sewers – 104 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project, discussed earlier, (See under Visitors, Joe Greene)
- Parks – There will not be a winter fundraiser for the annual fireworks display. However, there will be a spring fundraiser. It seems we fight harder and harder every year to maintain funding for this event.

**Zoning Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Burnley**

- No report

**Unfinished Business/Correspondence**

- None

**New Business**

- None

**Mayor's Report/Comments**

- This year, children may Trick-or-Treat on Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. both nights.
- Angel Tree applications will be available November 2 at the following locations: Pawnee Public Library, United Community Bank and the village office. Applicants must be 18 years or under, reside in Pawnee and attend the Pawnee School system or Pawnee community day care centers.
- The village received a request from the Pawnee Leaning Center to provide a decorated car with treats in the trunk so that children may Trick-or-Treat in the center's parking lot, Friday, October 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Motion to Adjourn Regular Session**

**Motion** made by Trustee Murphy to leave regular session in order to enter an executive session.

Second by Trustee Thompson

Roll Call Vote Taken: Whitson-yes, Thompson-yes, Murphy-yes and Skinner-yes

Motion Carried (4-0)

**Motion to Enter Executive Session**

**Motion** made by Trustee Thompson to enter an executive session at 7:56 p.m. for the purpose to discuss litigations.

Second by Trustee Skinner

Roll Call Vote Taken: Whitson-yes, Thompson-yes, Murphy-yes and Skinner-yes

Motion Carried (4-0)

Motion to Re-enter Regular Session

Motion made by Trustee Skinner to re-enter regular session at 8:40 p.m.

Second by Trustee Thompson

Roll Call Vote Taken: Whitson-yes, Thompson-yes, Murphy-yes and Skinner-yes

- Eighth and Jefferson Street property. (The village was offered the opportunity to purchase the property for taxes owed following a tax sale at which the property did not garner interest.) The village recently received the deed to the property.

Motion made by Trustee Murphy to have Kelly Thein work with attorney Myers to put together a sealed bid with notice that the village retains the right to reject any or all bids for the property.

Second by Trustee Whitson

Roll Call Vote Taken: Whitson-yes, Thompson-yes, Murphy-yes and Skinner-yes

Motion Carried: (4-0)

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Trustee Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Trustee Murphy

Roll Call Vote Taken: Whitson-yes, Thompson-yes, Murphy-yes and Skinner-yes

Motion Carried: (4-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2015. The next scheduled meeting of the Pawnee Village Board of Trustees is Monday, October 26, 2015, 7 p.m. at the Pawnee Village Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia S. Kramer  
Deputy Clerk