

**VILLAGE OF PAWNEE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of September 9, 2019**

**Call to Order:**

- President Clarke called the meeting to order to 7:00pm.

**Roll Call:**

- Village Clerk, Devona Martin called roll
- Trustees in attendance: Todd Richeson, Cara Burnley, Patrick Murphy, Troy Squires
- Trustees Absent: Phillip Thompson, David Skinner
- Also in attendance: Attorney Don Cravens, Treasurer Kelly Thein, Candy Kramer with the Pawnee Post, Chief Jan Bowsher, Jeff Schober, Dalton Doerfler, Laura Doerfler, John Doerfler, John Peebles, Chris Dalton, Rebecca Dalton, Ed Maxey

**Visitor's Recognition/Comments:**

- President Clarke discussed the house on Washington Street. The first step is to send a notice to the owner but we are not sure who the owner is. It is a foreclosure house. Laura Doerfler advised it goes up for auction tomorrow morning at 8:00am or 8:30am at the Sangamon County Building. She indicated the starting bid is \$11,300. It is a mortgage foreclosure sale. She advised there were 3 people there today and 2 went inside. The house is filled with black mold and bugs. Rebecca Dalton asked about the timeline. Attorney Cravens advised there is a procedure to following. First, we give a 15day notice to fix or plan to fix or tear down the home. If that doesn't happen, we file suit and ask the court to let us tear it down. Currently, a bank owns it. It was a reverse mortgage. Chris Dalton advised his daughter as well as another area neighbors are immune compromised. Rebecca Dalton advised if it were to be struck by lightning, it could compromise all the residence around it. We will also contact the Sangamon County Health Department. Laura Doerfler advised she contacted them and she was told it was a Village problem. Attorney Cravens thinks if we call they will come down. There are some traps and the grass has been cut. Trustee Burnley advised we are trying to do what we can do. The Sangamon County Health Dept can speed up the process. The residents advised the bugs and rodents are outrageous. There could also be asbestos and lead paint. Attorney Cravens will start the process.

**Clerk's Report:**

- Minutes of August 26, 2019 were presented for review and approval  
**Motion** made by Trustee Squires to approve the minutes of August 26, 2019 as presented  
Second made by Trustee Murphy  
Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Burnley-yes, Murphy-yes, Squires-yes  
Motion Carried: (4-0)

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

- Trustee Squires presented the bills payable for the week ending September 9, 2019 in the amount of \$61,710.04

**Motion** made by Trustee Squires to accept the bills payable for the week ending September 9, 2019 in the amount of \$61,710.04

Second made by Trustee Richeson

Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Burnley-yes, Murphy-yes, Squires-yes

Motion Carried: (4-0)

### **Gas and Water Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Squires**

- Trustee Squires advised the Washington Street project is underway. They are hoping everything will be hooked up and putting water to it by the end of the week and hooking taps up by the end of next week.
- Trustee Squires advised for the month of August, there was 12 shut offs and all are back on.

### **Streets, Alley and Sidewalk Committee Report: Committee Chair, Trustee Murphy**

- Trustee Murphy asked Jeff Schober to report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street drain issue by the school. Jeff advised the 4<sup>th</sup> Street drain tile was full of roots. He also checked on the speed bumps for the alleys. There are different lengths and heights. They offer 4', 6' and 8' long and 1", 2" and 3" in height. They will be pulling them up during snow plow time. Chief Bowsher is concerned if we go less than 8', people will drive around them and into resident's yards. Trustee Murphy asked about curb blocks to keep people from going around. Consensus was to get 8' wide and 3" tall. We will also need 8 signs.
- Trustee Murphy inquired if we can patch 13<sup>th</sup> and Monroe since we won't be fixing it this year. Jeff advised that they will patch that area.
- President Clarke commended the guys for Doc Norris and 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Jeff Schober advised they cleaned out the drain tile at the school by the A Building with the vac.

### **Police Committee Report: Committee Chair, President Clarke**

- Chief Bowsher's report tabled. Chief Bowsher advised that Deputy Chief Harris is going to start taking over the monthly reports but he is unavailable on the first meeting of the month. Consensus was that the police report will be changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the month.

### **Sewers and Parks: Committee Chair, Trustee Thompson**

- President Clarke advised that we were nominated by the Illinois Association of Water Pollution Control Operators for the Best Operated Waste Water Treatment Works for 2020. We were 1 of 5 nominated out of 650. They will report the winner in April 2020.
- Trustee Squires indicated he was asked about park benches. A resident advised there wasn't any place to sit at North Park. There are several picnic tables and benches around the park.

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

- Trustee Burnley discussed the property at 1206 5<sup>th</sup> Street. They are requesting a variance to build a garage and fence. The zoning board approved with no opposition.

**Motion** made by Trustee Burnley to approve Ordinance 19-19 – An Ordinance Granting a Variance for a Fence in the Village of Pawnee, Illinois

Second made by Trustee Richeson

Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Burnley-yes, Murphy-yes, Squires-yes

Motion Carried: (4-0)

- Trustee Burnley advised Chief Bowsher has been helping her with the house by the funeral home. Chief Bowsher was able to reach out to the owner and the owner called Trustee Burnley the same day. She was not aware of the problem. She has been paying Curry's son to mow. Apparently, he has not been mowing. She is going to take care of the problems at the house. There was also a gas leak inside and we shut off the gas outside the home.
- Trustee Burnley discussed the trees by the daycare. The trees have encroached the fence line behind the daycare. She advised the owner of the daycare that this is a civil matter. She stated that there are a lot of trees and weeds growing next to the property. It is not a nuisance or safety hazard.
- Discussed the Michelle Drive property owned by Pastor Don and the house behind on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The house on 7<sup>th</sup> Street was supposed to reroute their drainage line from pumping directly on to Pastor Don's property. It does not look like this was done. Attorney Cravens advised he is not sure where we are with this. He will check into it.

### **Bargaining Committee: Committee Chair, President Clarke**

- none

### **Energy: Committee Chair, Trustee Burnley**

- none

### **Infrastructure: Committee Chair, Trustee Richeson**

- Trustee Richeson advised there is some maintenance needed on the bricks on the front of the building. He is working on repairs.

### **Motion to Exit Regular Session: 7:30pm**

- **Motion** made by Trustee Murphy to exit regular session  
Second made by Trustee Squires  
Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Burnley-yes, Murphy-yes, Squires-yes  
Motion Carried: (4-0)

### **Motion to Enter Executive Session: 7:34pm**

- **Motion** made by Trustee Squires to enter executive session for pending litigation  
Second made by Trustee Murphy  
Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Burnley-yes, Murphy-yes, Squires-yes

Motion Carried: (4-0)

**Motion to Exit Executive Session:7:40pm**

- **Motion** made by Trustee Murphy to exit executive session  
Second made by Trustee Squires  
Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Burnley-yes, Murphy-yes, Squires-yes  
Motion Carried: (4-0)

**Motion to Re-enter Regular Session:**

- **Motion** made by Trustee Squires to re-enter regular session  
Second made by Trustee Burnley  
Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Burnley-yes, Murphy-yes, Squires-yes  
Motion Carried: (4-0)

**Unfinished Business:**

- none

**New Business:**

- President Clarke had a discussion with the developer of the retirement community. The money the developer offered to the Barlows for the easement was declined. They offered 3x the going rate. President Clarke asked Attorney Cravens to find our easement in the field. We actually have an easement on McTaggart's property. President Clarke advised he received this information after he met with developer. The developer came up with another way to go. They want to force main to Jefferson and put in a storm drain on north side of Jefferson to run on the south side and then gravity fed to Monroe. To do this, we need an easement near McTaggerts which is a set aside and in a flood plain. If the Village kicks in \$100,000 the developer thinks they can pay for everything else. This could also benefit Reese Langheim's property and the drainage problem. He would have to incur the cost. This will take care of the drainage problems on Monroe and Jefferson and we would be fixing all that needs fixing. The next step is to talk to McTaggerts. We will wait until Trustee Skinner returns to approach the McTaggerts. We would need the same number of feet of easement. They would have to boar through the hill at the Christian Church. The developer advised that going this way, they will only need to go about 8' deep whereas the other way was 20'. Trustee Murphy asked about road damage. Trustee Squires advised minimal; about the same as a water main. Trustee Murphy asked about Washington Street. President Clarke advised we could potentially tap in and drain Conservation also. This would be at our expense. The developer will pay for their engineer to design and we will have our engineer sign off on it. Discussed the article in the Pawnee Post. Since the developer is using HUD dollars, everything must go through HUD which is located in Chicago. Trustee Burnley and Trustee Richeson have each received several calls relating to the article. Trustee Burnley advised she is assuring people there will be plenty of time to ask questions.

- Treasurer Thein advised the Illinois State Police Academy is behind on payments again. One will cross their fiscal year so we will have to take them to court to get paid. Treasurer Thein advised she has told them she is going to shut them off as we don't want to have to take them to court and wait 2 years to get paid. They are a couple months behind but she was told there is a big payment coming. Attorney Cravens asked how we would handle this if it was John Doe. Treasurer Thein advised we would shut them off. She stated Josh Ward has reached out and advised this is the State and this won't force their hand. President Clarke advised this is leverage to paint DNR. Treasurer Thein advised State Police pay their own bills but there are still things to be approved and has to go to the comptroller's office. Treasurer Thein was emailing them and she stopped emailing them about 2 months ago. They still get a mailed copy of the bill. Trustee Murphy advised there is a new class starting in October. Because of this, they will pay it. We've crossed their fiscal year so they only made a partial payment. It was going well for a while but it went south. They currently owe over \$4,000 again. President Clarke advised he heard they are wanting to build a new training facility. Attorney Cravens said we should treat them like everyone else and send them a red letter. Treasurer Thein advised the red letter won't be sent out until the end of the month. Trustee Murphy is very comfortable with shutting them off. He advised the money is there and they are just stringing us along. He stated currently, the facility houses dogs and guns and they still can't pay the bill. What happens if they build a training facility holding 300 cadets and the bill is significantly higher? We should shut them off. President Clarke believes this could affect any grants the State is giving out. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

- **Motion** made by Trustee Murphy  
Second made by Trustee Richeson  
Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Burnley-yes, Murphy-yes, Squires-yes  
Motion Carried: (4-0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm on Monday, September 9, 2019. The next scheduled meeting of the Pawnee Village Board of Trustees is Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Village Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,



Devona L. Martin  
Village Clerk