

Village of Sherman –Regular Board Meeting
Village Office-111 Mill St
November 5, 2014

Mayor Patterson opened the regular board meeting at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Patterson, Trustees: Weise, Higginbotham, Gratto, Reyda

Others present: Clerk Gilbert, Jay Irwin, Doug Crane, Dave-Westfield Republican, James Parnell Jr., Jim Higginbotham, Hazel Halter, John Aldridge

Mayor Patterson welcomed Mr. Parnell. Mr. Parnell explained that he would like to propose to take over the garbage pickup for the village. He explained that he would still use the \$2 bag system and pickup would be on Saturday. Doug asked about who he would contract with, the village or the individuals. He stated he would contract with the village until the transition over from the use current village bags. Mayor Patterson stated he would contact Mr. Parnell with a decision.

Jim Higginbotham was in attendance to give the board a list of items that he sees a savings in consolidation. He stated that he figured a savings of \$163,000.00/year savings in salaries of the mayor, board, clerk, building code officer and two streets workers. He also stated the cost of the village office building, 1/3 of the cost of the highway building. Utilities, insurance, and the amount of what the state is going to pay to the town for consolidation. Mayor Patterson expressed his concern he stated that there are approximately 730 residents, those village tax payers will decide if there is to be a consolidation. He is concerned about what cost will be shifted to the town residents. Jim wanted to suggest to the board if they were to start the study process rather than put it to a petition. Clerk Gilbert stated that she had been in contact with Kyle Wilber to find out the specifics that we need to follow for the study. She also stated that the accounting firm quote per hour for any services is \$105/hour. The state does not do the study but they assist with getting information needed for study. Trustee Weise moved to get the study started to avoid a public petition.

RESOLUTION #1: On motion made by Trustee Weise and seconded by Trustee Higginbotham to approve the start of a study of consolidation of the village with the town of Sherman.

AYES: 4 Gratto, Higginbotham, Weise, Reyda

NAYES: 0

Hazel Halter was present to ask about a few issues. She first asked of Doug why the sidewalks had not been scored. Doug stated that he is not convinced scoring them will be beneficial. He pinpointed different places in the village that have been and have not been scored. Hazel's concern was the new sidewalks that were just poured on Main St. are cracked. Mayor Patterson stated that the quality of the concrete is not the quality that it was in the past.

There was discussion as to whether scoring should be done. Hazel also questioned the roughness of the surface. Doug stated that it was decided in previous years to go rougher to avoid a smooth

slick surface. She also pointed out that there is valve that needs to be fixed so that someone doesn't trip. Also the width of the sidewalk was discussed also. Doug stating that the width of most new sidewalks is 5' wide.

At the corner of East Main/Willard she stated there is a flag that is tattered and needs replaced. John Aldridge questioned the rounded edges on the sidewalks if they were a functional or cosmetic operation. Doug stated functional as it allows for less chipping on the edges especially at the driveways.

RESOLUTION #2: On motion made by Trustee Gratto and seconded by Trustee Weise to approve the October 2014 regular meeting minutes.

AYES: 4 Gratto, Higginbotham, Weise, Reyda

NAYES: 0

Sewer Department

Jay reported that the engineering report has not been completed and was not submitted for this year funding but we will be ahead of schedule for next year's submission.

Mayor Patterson thanked the employees in the streets, water, sewer departments for getting things finished up for the season. Trustee Higginbotham thanked them for getting the leaves picked up quickly.

STREETS/WATER

Street repairs are completed for this season.

Moody sent a quote for water well #1, \$11,981.00 quote for replacing the well.

RESOLUTION #3: On motion made by Trustee Reyda and seconded by Trustee Gratto to approve the estimate for Moody to replace the well #1 for \$11,981.00

AYES: 4 Gratto, Higginbotham, Weise, Reyda

NAYES: 0

Work is still being done on meter repair, approximately 7 have been completed.

Water leak on Kendrick St. 8" at Babcock's was attended to on Monday. Randy Sweatman, David Damcott's, and Boyd Whitney's water mains will be hooked up next. Then they will move to West Main St. and do Mark Gulzynski's and the General Store. The next will be to the Assembly of God and Howard Crumps. The water lines that froze will be the first on the list.

Mayor Patterson asked for motion to keep the F150 plow truck.

RESOLUTION #4: On motion made by Trustee Higginbotham and seconded by Trustee Gratto to approve keeping the old plow truck/plow F150 to be used as a back-up truck and at the Sewer plant.

AYES: 4 Gratto, Higginbotham, Weise, Reyda

NAYES: 0

Doug suggested that he would get a recommendation from the county engineer to be put into

place for a guideline. Mayor Patterson stated that he will leave the decision to score sidewalks up to Doug and what he finds out from the county.

New street signs and parking signs will be going up all through the village.

RESOLUTION #5: On motion made by Trustee Weise and seconded by Trustee Gratto to approve Voucher #6 for \$23,113.96.

AYES: 4 Gratto, Higginbotham, Weise, Reyda

NAYES: 0

CLERK

Clerk Gilbert reported CD balance \$359,356.57, would need to have \$20,000.00 withdrawn from the General CD to cover November vouchers and payroll. Sales Tax is due within the next week. Current checking account balance is \$26,693.56 before voucher payments.

RESOLUTION #6: On motion made by Trustee Reyda and seconded by Trustee Higginbotham to approve transfer of \$20,000.00 from the General CD to the General Checking account.

AYES: 4 Gratto, Higginbotham, Reyda, Weise

NAYES: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Higginbotham stated that she felt there was an improper executive session conducted by the mayor. She stated it was moved but never seconded and approved and the reason for the session was illegal. Mayor Patterson stated that he has recognized that the procedure of going into executive session was improper but he feels the reason was not out of line. She felt that it was a personal issue with her. Mayor Patterson shared a letter that was address to the mayor at the village office written to the mayor from Trustee Donna Higginbotham regarding the subject matter from that executive session. Mayor Patterson felt that she had told him that people were afraid to come to him with issues or problems. She felt that that was not a proper reason for having the executive session. Mayor Patterson stated that he respected that she has people bring their problems to her. She felt that it should have been addressed individually. The letter that Trustee Higginbotham wrote to Mayor Patterson asked the Mayor to apologize to her for his question regarding people (and how many there are) being afraid to talk to him at the board meeting in front of the other trustees. As Mayor Patterson feels the matter was of a personal nature directed toward him he refused to apologize to her in any way. Mayor Patterson stated that it was not vindictive or retaliatory in any way. Trustee Weise agreed that what was said by Mayor Patterson he did state that. Trustee Higginbotham read the reasons for going into executive session and stated that those reasons were not met. Mayor Patterson agreed that the motion to go into executive session was done incorrect but he stands behind his reason.

Mayor Patterson stated that he would like to see the yellow ribbons taken down at the Historical Society. Trustee Higginbotham stated that the Rural Center is the one that does the ribbons and she stated that she would contact Michelle to have them taken down.

Mayor Patterson read a letter from the secretary of the Historical Society stating that the keys for the Yorker Museum shall not be given out to anyone for touring. Contact the Historical Society directly. Mayor Patterson stated only the village employees will have access for village business

at the museum.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Higginbotham asked about a donation to the Rural Center. Clerk Gilbert stated that this same type of issue was brought to the board and it was decided not to spend tax payer monies on donations.

Garbage pick-up was discussed. Clerk Gilbert will review the finances on this area to see if there is any gain or loss by having it contracted.

RESOLUTION #7: On motion made by Trustee Weise and seconded by Trustee Higginbotham to approve adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm.

AYES: 4 Gratto, Higginbotham, Reyda, Weise

NAYES: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Gilbert

Ann Gilbert
Clerk/Treasurer