

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
November 18, 2014**

A meeting of the Village of Tolono Board of Trustees ("Board") was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014. Trustees present: Beth Erwin, Mike Golish, Beth Hewing, Greg Kingston, and Ryan Perry; Trustee Kent Plackett was absent. Others present: Tony Battaglia, Village Building Official, Roger Hayden and Ann Haluzau (Tolono Fire District ("TFD")), Mayor Jeff Holt, Engineer Larry Johnson, Attorney Marc Miller, and Clerk Dixie Phillips.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Clerk Phillips and roll was taken. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comments – Larry Kearns advised the Board again about the property at 315 N Vorcey because it is overgrown and animals, including snakes, have been seen on the property. He also advised the Board the taxes had not been paid in two years and it is currently unoccupied. Mr. Kearns also mentioned that several street lights were out around town and asked if they could be fixed for safety reasons, among others. Mayor Holt said he would ask the night patrolmen to check the outages and to let the staff know so Ameren can be called to repair the street lights.

Peggy Billman addressed the Board concerning the intersection of Walnut Street and US Route 45. She asked if a stoplight could be put up because of a safety hazard for traffic and children crossing because where B & L Motors' cars are parked making it difficult to see around the corner without going out on the highway. Mayor Holt told Ms. Billman that a couple of years ago the Village had checked with the Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT") and that they had done a traffic check and deemed no stop light was not warranted. Mayor Holt also said he would check with the State's representatives for the Village's area and have the engineers check with IDOT again to see if perhaps a change had been made to warrant a stop light.

Jeremy Mitchell addressed the Board concerning leaf burning stating that he was in favor of leaf burning and he is concerned about the cost of a leaf vacuum, as well as it being difficult for the Village Public Works Department to keep up with the leaves on top of all their other duties. He feels doing away with leaf burning is a bad idea. Mayor Holt told Mr. Mitchell that he had been contacted by the schools because of the school's air intake equipment takes the smoke into the schools and the breathing problems of some of the children.

Public Works Department – Trustee Perry advised the Board that he and Mike Woodworth had reviewed the hot patch machine; that Mr. Woodworth had operated it, and that they felt it was a good economical purchase for the town to be able to repair some of the cracks and potholes. It was restated that around \$60,000 was needed for a brand new hot patch machine with all the options, and it was approximately \$31,000 for a refurbished by the factory machine. Purchasing a new machine would have a lease to buy option with an annual payment each year with a low interest rate. Mr. Miller will be provided a copy of the lease prior to revise so the Board can take action at its next meeting.

Mr. Golish also said that he thought there was a list of the Village vehicles to be reviewed but Mr. Woodworth was not there to assist in their review of the items, so it will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Reports

Mr. Johnson gave a disclaimer that he was not a financial expert and told the Board the proposals for financing would be opened in a couple of weeks. He also reported that Dan Schuering needed a copy of the Redevelopment Plan to complete his part of the project. Trustee Kingston raised the question of why we needed another attorney when the TIF attorneys should be doing the work. Trustee Perry mentioned that the TIF attorneys were to have the figures a few weeks ago and have never showed up at a meeting or e-mailed the figures to anyone. Mayor Holt said he would contact the TIF attorneys and have them at the next meeting. Trustee Perry asked if the Board could look at replacing the current TIF attorneys if they did not show up. He was told that the firm of Jacob & Klein, Ltd. was the best around and that it would be difficult to find a replacement. Mr. Johnson also distributed two letters, both dated November 4, 2014, from Dan Schuering concerning the Tax Increment for the Storm Water Sewer Extension and the 2014 Storm Water Extension Note Financing.

Mr. Hayden from the TFD reported they cannot move forward with the retention pond until they have approval from the TIF attorneys. Trustee Kingston asked if the TFD had any contingency plans for financing if the event TIF fell through and Ms. Haluzau, also from the TFD, said no because it was a TIF eligible project. Mr. Hayden said they did have some contingencies but not real good ones. Trustee Golish asked about the bus still parked at the Village sewer plant and Mr. Hayden said he would get it moved; that originally it was to be used for training but the permits have not come through yet. Ms. Haluzau advised the Board that the TF will be taking sealed bids on the old fire truck.

Mr. Battaglia told the Board he had been informed that Ray Eckstein had completed an application for a variance but Mr. Battaglia had not received it yet. Mr. Battaglia will contact the office to see if the Village received it. On the drainage solution for 313 Philip Drive, that problem has not been resolved because he and Mr. Woodworth have not been able to meet because of Mr. Woodworth's work schedule.

The homeowner letters were discussed and a second letter will be sent to those that have not complied before the matter is turned over for possible legal action. A letter will be sent to the residence on Reynolds Street involving two poorly kept properties.

Minutes:

Trustee Golish made a motion, seconded by Trustee Perry to approve the minutes of the November 2014 meeting as presented. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Trustee Kingston told the Board that he spoke with several Villages similar in size and nature of Tolono and was told that the Treasurer will do other duties as well; that most villages have an appointed Treasurer and few are elected; that they work between five and ten hours per week ranging in pay scale; and they normally belong to the Illinois Treasurer Association who helps train and assist with annual audits, etc. Trustee Golish also said that he believes a part-time Treasurer and someone to help staff would be the better solution for the Village, both economically and efficiency. Trustee Erwin said she is fine with Trustee Kingston's proposal and that the office needs assistance. Mr. Golish proposes we separate duties between the Treasurer and the office staff. It will be discussed at the Board's next meeting.

The camera issue was discussed and because the Park District has not met to make a decision, it was deferred to the next Board meeting.

Trustee Golish made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hewing to approve Ordinance No. 2014-15, An Ordinance Amending the Tolono Municipal Code to Regulate Burning. A roll call vote was taken and the following votes were cast passing the motion:

Beth Erwin – Yes
Greg Kingston – No

Mike Golish – Yes
Ryan Perry – Yes

Beth Hewing – Yes
Kent Plackett – Absent

This ordinance allows leaf burning during the period of September 1 and ending December 15 and beginning April 1 and ending May 15 for the years 2015 and 2016, at which time there will be a no-burn order in place for the Village of Tolono.

Trustee Kingston reported that the stump at the intersection of Strong and Whitehead Streets had not been removed. Mayor Holt said he had asked it to be removed and will follow up on it to make sure it is removed.

Trustee Perry told the Board that a time frame could not be narrowed down enough to see who dumped all the paint cans.

Trustee Golish informed the Board that the water bills can now be printed with a color block for information, including a different font.

New Business:

Trustee Golish made a motion, seconded by Trustee Perry to approve Ordinance No. 2014-16, 2014-2015 Tax Levy. A roll call vote was taken and the following votes were cast passing the motion:

Beth Erwin – Yes
Greg Kingston – Yes

Mike Golish – Yes
Ryan Perry – Yes

Beth Hewing – Yes
Kent Plackett – Absent

Mr. Miller reported that Chicago Title had done a search on the woods at the park and it was discovered that only two deeds had been issued: (1) a deed to the city in 1883 and (2) a deed from the City to the Park District in 1976. The Park District will be notified of this finding.

There were no sewer credits.

Trustee Kingston asked about the items sitting along the side of the Village Hall. No one knew for certain why they were there so Mr. Golish will check into it and advise the Board.

Executive Session: None

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Golish made a motion, seconded by Trustee Perry to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dixie L. Phillips, Clerk