

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 22, 2011**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Peter Gustafson, George Tyler, Steve Atwood, John Lajza.
(Deb Billado was absent.)
ADMINISTRATION: Dave Crawford, Village Manager; Lauren Morrisseau,
Finance Director.

I. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In the absence of Village President, Deb Billado, Peter Gustafson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Include in 'Guests and Presentations', Item #3 (public comment on the crescent connector):

- Letter from Bill Kalanges, dated 12/28/10, in support of the northern alternative of the crescent connector
- Letter from Alex McEwing, dated 1/21/11 in support of the southern alternative of the crescent connector
- Memo from Robin Pierce to the Trustees, dated 2/22/11, regarding the RSG crescent connector study

Include in 'Old Business', Item #2 (action on EJRP Agreement):

- Letter from Joseph McNeil, dated 2/22/11, to Deb Billado and Dave Crawford regarding governance of EJRP

Include in 'Manager's Report':

- Memo from Jonathan Williams, dated 2/18/11, providing an update on projects

Include in 'Consent Agenda':

- Revenue/expense report bill list, dated 2/22/11

III. GUESTS AND PRESENTATION

1. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda

There were no comments from the public.

2. FY2010 Audit Report by Fred Duplessis of Sullivan Powers & Co.

Fred Duplessis reviewed the audit report for FY10, noting the percent of budget held as fund balance in reserve is advised to start at 15%, but the administration must look at short and long term cash flow and managing the tax rate to determine what percentage works best for the village. Mr. Duplessis reported the village did better on both the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget (\$125,000 better than budgeted). Enterprise funds (water, sanitation, waste water) are performing as planned. The deficit in Waste Water should be retired in four years. Mr. Duplessis mentioned the various schedules included in the audit report and stated per the management letter there are no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in the village's financials. The audit went well. Staff was prepared and fully cooperative.

George Tyler asked about compensated absences. Fred Duplessis explained compensated absences show as a long term liability because payment does not occur until an employee leaves the village. Payment is taken from the fund for the department where the employee worked. George Tyler asked about the land acquisition fund being separate from other liabilities. Fred Duplessis explained typically towns use this type of fund to acquire a particular piece of property. The village does not have a targeted parcel of land for the fund. The fund is accruing interest and has not been funded in the current year's budget.

MOTION by George Tyler, SECOND by Steve Atwood, to accept the FY10 Audit Report as presented and reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

DISCUSSION: John Lajza requested more time to review the report and suggested acceptance and approval of the report be deferred to the next meeting.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION by George Tyler, SECOND by Steve Atwood, to accept and approve the FY10 Audit Report at the next Trustees meeting.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION AS AMENDED: George Dunbar, III, village resident, asked if the village charter provides a constraint on the amount of budget held in reserve. Fred Duplessis said if there is a constraint by charter that is not an accounting issue. Mr. Dunbar asked the Trustees to further investigate the question. Mr. Dunbar mentioned the Pearl Street improvement project cost number (\$2.34 million total cost) does not match the audit number (\$2.58 million). Mr. Dunbar also mentioned the South Summit Street capital reserve. Lauren Morrisseau explained the new capital plan will include what has actually happened with regard to the projects. The current capital plan reflects what is in the audit. There were no further questions or comments.

VOTING ON MOTION AS AMENDED: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

3. Crescent Connector Study Presentation and Public Comment

Mark Smith with RSG and Eleni Churchill with CCMPO presented the results of the crescent connector study to include road alternative #1 (north) and #2 (south). The connector road will decrease traffic at Five Corners, Maple Street, Park Street and Main Street, and have a vehicle traveling on Park Street to Route 15 or Route 117 cross the railroad tracks only once instead of twice. The northern alignment essentially parallels the railroad tracks past the former Flanders building. The southern alignment impacts the Mason Brothers building which is an historic building (built in 1904) and comes very close to the former Flanders building. There will not be a connection from the crescent connector to Elm Street. Traffic signals will have to be synchronized and communicate with each other when traffic is present. An environmental assessment will be needed for either alternative though there are very few environmental impacts. Discussion is ongoing with New England Central Railroad regarding rail issues. Next steps include deciding on the alternative and seeking funding, getting the project included in the MPO funding process, proceeding with preliminary and final engineering of the road, acquiring rights-of-way, permitting (there are historic buildings to consider), and then construction. There is opportunity for public comment at each stage.

George Tyler asked if there is any benefit for downtown development and pedestrian access with one alternative or the other. Mark Smith noted the northern alternative uses slightly more land so development potential is reduced.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A letter from Bill Kalanges in support of alternative #1 (northern alignment) was noted. Mr. Kalanges is one of two major land owners impacted by the road project.

A letter from Lincoln Development Group noted reservations with the original design. Lincoln Development Group is the other major landowner impacted by the road project.

It was mentioned Depot Home property is also impacted by the road project.

Lee Tuure observed the northern alignment appears the least costly, but impacts the Lincoln Inn property. Mr. Tuure asked for an update on the rail and bus transportation hub concept. Dave Crawford explained the Lincoln Development Group has a conceptual plan that includes a transportation hub. An application has not been filed as yet. The concept of in-fill is being encouraged in the area. Mr. Tuure suggested a fence be installed for safety purposes to help direct people to cross the railroad tracks in the designated places. Mark Smith stated the northern alignment will have a fence where the road is up against the railroad tracks. Pedestrian crossings (gates and signals) are incorporated in the road crossings.

Nick Meyer asked if houses on Main Street and Maple Street will be impacted by the road. Mark Smith stated there are noise and traffic impacts. Most traffic is flowing onto Route 117. A fraction is going to Route 15. There will be an increase in traffic on Railroad Street. Parking will remain as is on Railroad Street. George Tyler observed the traffic flow has not changed and now there will be two busy intersections to navigate. Robin Pierce noted Mr. Bushey (gas station) is in support of the proposed traffic light at the crescent road intersection because crossing the road is dangerous for pedestrians. Mark Smith stated there will be the same number of cars, just taking a different route. Congestion will be less at Five Corners.

Marla Durham asked if input from the police has been sought on safety issues with the proposed connector. Robin Pierce confirmed he discussed the initial idea for the road with the Police Chief. Eleni Churchill assured there can be discussions with the police about the road.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Action on Design Alternative for Crescent Connector Road

It was observed that the northern alternative satisfies the needs of the road and has fewer impacts than the southern alternative. The northern alternative is also less expensive.

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to defer the decision on the crescent connector alignment until the next Trustees meeting when the full board is present. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

2. Consider and Take Action on EJRP Agreement from Prudential Committee
Peter Gustafson recused himself from deliberation/decision on the matter as a member of the Board of Trustees.

George Tyler clarified at issue is the land lease between the village and the school district signed in Year 2000 to operate the parks and recreation department on village owned land. The lease expires in July, 2011. The Prudential Committee copied the same agreement verbatim with the exception of extending the end date to 2019 when the bond issued to the school district for the pool and facilities will be paid in full. The agreement does not discuss ownership, just the operation of the recreation department. The Prudential Committee signed the agreement (end date 2019) which is distinct from the agreement sent by the Trustees to the Prudential Committee allowing oversight by village staff and involvement in the governance of EJRP as well as changing the status of the school district to essentially a private contractor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harlan Smith, Fuller Place, read and submitted a statement requesting that the Board of Trustees sign the agreement sent by the Prudential Committee or hold a special meeting to consider the petition that was submitted requesting the Trustee stop wasting time and taxpayer money on the recreation issue and to take public comment on who should govern EJRP. Mr. Smith also submitted several pages of date stamped comments on the recreation issue stated at various Trustees meetings (taken from the Ch. 17 clickable agenda videos). John Lajza explained his position has been consistent in studying and trying to understand what is best for the community. The first issue to settle is “who owns the keys (to EJRP) and that is what the Declaratory Judgment will determine after which responsibilities can be discussed, said Trustee Lajza. There was further discussion and comment relative to the Prudential Committee being willing to work together on a time line that worked for everyone because there was not a crisis at hand, and the lack of response to requests by the Board of Trustees to meet since August 2010 (an executive meeting was finally held on 1/27/11). John Lajza noted there is much misinformation being circulated. Harlan Smith reiterated the request to sign the agreement sent by the Prudential Committee or to hold a special meeting to gather public input on the governance question and stop spending time and money on the issue. Mr. Smith asked about the comment by John Lajza that the decision was up to the Board of Trustees and not by vote of the voters. John Lajza explained statutorily the matter is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Harlan Smith countered on the moral end the Trustees signed up to serve the public as a whole and with the statement that was made the public was dismissed. If the public is not allowed to vote, then the Trustees need to hear the voters’ voice. There may be a vote of no confidence on the budget, warned Mr. Smith. John Lajza explained the Trustees are trying to make a decision based on information and has been having difficulty collecting that information.

Peter Gustafson mentioned the faith the public had in the Trustees prior to the recreation issue. Mr. Gustafson said as a citizen he sent an email to the Prudential Committee and Michael Deweese and the Board of Trustees and Dave Crawford to hold a meeting and not leave until the matter is resolved. Only one response from a member of the Prudential Committee has been received thus far, said Mr. Gustafson. George Tyler interjected there was an executive meeting on 1/12/11 between the leadership of the Board of Trustees and CCSU that was three hours long so the complaint about the Prudential Committee not wanting to meet does not make sense. In the legal document sent to CCSU the first line says "...you are being sued..." so the court matter is a lawsuit, clarified Trustee Tyler, opining there are not two boards arguing, but rather one board badgering another to meet sooner than convenient and demanding information even though the other board has agreed to meet within their meeting schedule and agenda because there is not an emergency or crisis to address. At the last three recreation advisory committee meetings there was only one Trustee (George Tyler) and the Village Manager present, said Trustee Tyler, and at the recreation budget development meeting none of the people complaining about access to budget information were in attendance. Mr. Tyler stated in his experience in the past 12 years there has always been open access to budget information and the meetings, but no one shows up. The Prudential Committee and recreation staff questioned why there should be a break in the agenda and meeting schedule to meet with the Trustees when there is not a crisis, and the Trustees could not say so the theoretical question of ownership was raised, said Mr. Tyler. Who runs the current recreation department and are people satisfied are the questions that should be under consideration and there is plenty of time to come to an answer. The agreement sent by the Prudential Committee to the Trustees maintains the status quo. Everyone agrees that EJRP is the finest recreation department in the state so there is no reason not to sign the agreement, stated George Tyler. Harlan Smith suggested a clause be added to the agreement specifying meetings on a regular basis to answer questions and try to save taxpayer money at every opportunity.

Ryan Hegreness, recreation employee, stated the comparison summary by Deb Billado and the recreation consultant's presentation on 1/11/11 was inaccurate and misleading. The data were not valid for comparison, but rather was selective and some numbers were just wrong. The summary was not keeping within the scope of hire. A final report with accurate numbers will be available, said Mr. Hegreness. The recreation department always welcomes public comment and takes action as needed. EJRP staff halted action (on the baseball field) based on community opinion. The Trustees are in the same position, compared Mr. Hegreness, with the community saying stop, but the Trustees continuing to move the matter forward. The Trustees are encouraged to consider the vision statement and take action that creates community. There have been hundreds of work hours and thousands of dollars spent on the issue. Steve Atwood asked if revised data will be used for the updated report. Ryan Hegreness said the numbers are based on documents from the departments and confirmation from the directors so the information is accurate. Some comparisons by the consultant were not appropriate (apples to oranges). John Lajza stated Mike Deweese said village staff was not allowed to talk to recreation staff so a consultant was hired. Ryan Hegreness reiterated a ridiculous amount of time has been spent on getting relevant information out to the public when there are

recreation programs to run. There has been lots of information published and available. John Lajza countered the Trustees tried to get information, but the blocking point was “who owns the keys” put forth by Michael Deweese.

Marla Durham, village resident, announced her intention to seek a position on the Prudential Committee again after previously serving 12 years. Ms. Durham contended the Trustees are ‘reinventing the wheel’. The issue of the recreation department under the Prudential Committee (school district) has been studied. Ms. Durham recalled past effort by John Lajza and Deb Billado to have the recreation department managed by the Board of Trustees, adding the current effort is costing the taxpayers money. The children are well served by the recreation department. The school superintendent does protect the staff and there is a protocol to follow. The taxpayers own the recreation department, not the Trustees or CCSU. The taxpayers built the pool and facilities. The recreation department does a great job and has programs before and after school for the children. Staff is screened as part of the school district protocol. Marla Durham strongly encouraged the Trustees to stop the process now and stop wasting taxpayer money. Problems may have started when the recreation advisory committee became advisory to staff rather than the school board. Ms. Durham urged the Trustees to sign the agreement and include reinstatement of the recreation advisory committee to include members from the Board of Trustees, school board, and staff. John Lajza agreed the connection to the school board was lost with the recreation advisory committee and the Trustee member who tried to join the committee was told he was not needed. Marla Durham stated the issue is dividing the community and this needs to stop now. The Trustees need to sign the agreement. The recreation department funds are separate and should remain separate and not included in the village general fund. Ms. Durham addressed the matter of Peter Gustafson recusing himself noting Mr. Gustafson is protected by the teacher’s union and would not lose his job if he participated in a vote on the matter. Mr. Gustafson replied no matter what his vote might be half the community would either agree or disagree.

John Lajza stated there is much misconception about the Declaratory Judgment and read the definition which is to understand each other’s responsibilities and avoid a lawsuit. There must be ultimate cooperation between the two parties though. Marla Durham suggested holding a nonbinding public vote to see if the voters want the Trustees or the school district to govern the recreation department.

Linda Costello, village resident, recalled why she chose to live in Essex Junction and spend 30 years here as a school teacher. Ms. Costello said the “sandlot fight” between the Trustees and Prudential Committee must stop. The economic development efforts to attract and promote business in the community, good schools, fine library, and great recreation program are what attract people to live in the village, but the dispute has to stop.

Bridget Meyer, chairwoman of the recreation advisory council, recalled when the council change the Trustee delegate stepped down after giving assurance the council did not need a Trustee delegate. There was not a delegate from the school department on the council either. Ms. Meyer suggested there be quarterly reports from the recreation department to

the Trustees or the Trustees could join the recreation advisory council to stay informed on recreation matters. The municipal code says the school department is in charge of parks and recreation so there is question how the issue can continue forward. Dave Crawford stated a legal opinion from Joe McNeil has been received that says the code reflects what is currently happening and can be changed by the Trustees. Ms. Meyer asked if public hearings are required prior to approval of a change in the municipal code by the Trustees. Mr. Crawford did not know if there must be public hearings or if there is an appeal period following action by the Trustees.

Adam Luck, village resident, read a prepared statement asking the Trustees to stop wasting time and money on the recreation issue and to allow the recreation department to continue to thrive. Mr. Luck urged the Trustees to sign the agreement sent by the Prudential Committee and take the issue out of the court to find a solution that is superb.

Trustee Tyler proposed a motion to sign the agreement sent to the Trustees by the Prudential Committee. The motion was not supported with a second or a vote. Harlan Smith reiterated there will be a vote of no confidence on the village budget by the taxpayers because there is no trust in the Board of Trustees.

George Dunbar, III, village resident, stated the recreation advisory council no longer being a subcommittee of the Prudential Committee and designating/appointing its out members is a problem because the open meetings laws do not apply. Meetings should be properly warned per the law and minutes taken so the council is accountable to the public or a political body. The recreation advisory council should be part of the Prudential Committee, said Mr. Dunbar, and the Trustees are urged to accept the agreement and reinstate the recreation advisory committee as it existed prior to 2008. Linda Waite-Simpson explained the Prudential Committee was advised subcommittees that have fulfilled their charge should be disbanded and not allowed as a standing committee. There is a 10 year strategic plan for the recreation department and an advisory council to staff, much like the PTO function to the schools. The council appoints its own members who are ambassadors to the community. Staff advises the Prudential Committee.

Ms. Waite-Simpson expressed hope in earnest that the Trustees will adopt the agreement that was forwarded because nothing is broken and it is time to move on. The matter of appointed seats on the recreation advisory council can be reconsidered if necessary, said Ms. Waite-Simpson. The Trustees have been repeatedly invited to meetings with the Prudential Committee. The meeting on 2/3/11 was set aside for discussion with the Trustees. The legal opinion was prepared and available for discussion, but only Trustee George Tyler attended the meeting. The Prudential Committee has offered opportunity to answer questions and concerns, but no one has showed up. John Lajza asked what is wrong with having some oversight by both boards. Mr. Lajza said better understanding is needed of why the Prudential Committee did not communicate concerns at the executive meeting. Linda Waite-Simpson stressed there was discussion in detail at the three hour meeting of operational issues with two boards overseeing the recreation department, but there is nothing broken with the current model. John Lajza said the Trustees wanted to continue to study the formulas used (financials) which was in the contract. Ms. Waite-

Simpson clarified the village ordinance says the school district has complete oversight of the parks and recreation department. The Prudential Committee has complied with the ordinance since 1985, and now the Trustees are asking the school district to violate the ordinance by demanding village oversight. John Lajza countered per state statute (Title 31) a municipality can delegate authority, but cannot give away authority. Ms. Waite-Simpson stated a public vote on the recreation department budget is held every year which is the school department budget. The village can start its own recreation department if desired. The community changed the charter and the legislature approved the change (in 1983) to have the recreation department under the school district. John Lajza interjected the Secretary of State advised this was a referendum only. Linda Waite-Simpson said the Department of Education maintains the school district's charter.

Peter Gustafson observed good compromise ideas have been presented and suggested Mike Deweese, Linda Waite-Simpson, Dave Crawford, and Deb Billado meet again and settle the issue. Linda Waite-Simpson pointed out there is a filing by the Trustees in Superior Court which needs to be withdrawn before meeting again otherwise the Prudential Committee has no choice but to retain counsel and address the lawsuit brought by the Trustees. Peter Gustafson said both boards do not want their budgets voted down because the voters are angry about this issue. Lots of work has gone into developing the budgets which are sound. Linda Waite-Simpson urged the Trustees to listen to the people who are angry because the Trustees filed in Superior Court for a judgment. The Trustees hired an attorney and the Prudential Committee hired an attorney with the same tax dollars to essentially sue ourselves, said Ms. Waite-Simpson. Dave Crawford said the legal opinion indicated there is no reason the two boards cannot settle the matter while the court case is filed. Mr. Crawford said Ms. Waite-Simpson is making a condition of negotiation to withdraw the lawsuit before holding discussions. Ms. Waite-Simpson stressed the community is asking the Trustees to stop. Dave Crawford explained the school board can decide whether to come to the table or not. The school board and the citizens are making that statement.

George Tyler calculated the village budgeted \$12,800 for legal services and has spent year-to-date \$16,900 with half the budget year remaining. The legal budget has been over spent already by \$4,129. Mr. Tyler asked the percentage of the legal budget spent on the recreation issue. Dave Crawford confirmed a large portion of the funds have been used for the recreation issue along with a huge amount of emotional and staff time. George Tyler used the analogy of the village being willing to talk while holding a gun to the Prudential Committee. The village took the action in court, not the school department. John Lajza reiterated he wants to understand the responsibilities of each party, recalling at one point in time Linda Waite-Simpson said "maybe we'll have to sue". Linda Waite-Simpson denied making the statement.

Charlee Day, Prudential Committee member and village resident, said Trustee Lajza and Billado continue to use the phrase "who owns the keys", but it is the taxpayers who own the keys. Dr. Deweese never indicated there should be a lawsuit which is what is being implied. Slanderous statements have been made, said Ms. Day, and respect for the Trustees has been lost. Ms. Day said she feels "bullied" and will not cast her vote in

support of John Lajza for Trustee. Ms. Day said the school district has a nonbinding vote on the ballot for the public to indicate who they want to run the recreation department.

Annie Cooper, village resident, accused Trustee Lajza of not being truthful. Ms. Cooper spoke of respect for the people in the school and recreation departments and the work that is done, and then having misinformation or incorrect information stated by the Trustees at televised meetings. Ms. Cooper said the Trustees are creating division and are disrespecting the people who work hard in the school and recreation departments which is absolutely disgusting.

A woman in the audience spoke about being inspired by great leadership which includes admitting when a mistake has been made. The people have spoken and the Trustees need to make a decision capable of great leadership.

The consensus of the Trustees is to take action on the agreement when the full board is present. Meeting date to be announced.

3. Adopt and Sign Resolution on WWTF Rehabilitation Project Bond Vote
MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by Steve Atwood, to approve and sign the resolution on the WWTF rehabilitation project bond vote as presented. VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

4. Discussion of Draft Annual Meeting Warning

There was discussion of adding a nonbinding vote on the recreation department issue to the warning. Dave Crawford stressed it must be clear to the public that the vote is an opinion poll and not binding the direction of the board. John Lajza stated over 800 people spoke against any change in recreation department governance which is fine, but there is problem with some of the contract language and the Prudential Committee is not willing to sign the contract proposed by the Trustees.

George Dunbar, III, discussed the wording of the articles on the warning, questioning the parenthetical text. Dave Crawford explained the information in the parenthesis is a statement of what is happening now. Mr. Dunbar pointed out there is more money in the rolling stock fund than allowed by the cap and recommended the vote on that item be held before the vote on the overall budget. Dave Crawford explained the rolling stock is a blend of funds from all departments so cutting \$115,000 out of the general fund is not a fair way to reduce the rolling stock fund. The fire truck five year note could be extended so the rolling stock cap is not exceeded, suggested Mr. Crawford. George Dunbar pointed out the rolling stock fund does not list the enterprise funds. Dave Crawford concurred the report is in error by saying “street” rather than “sanitation”.

The consensus of the Trustees is the draft warning as presented is fine and there will be an opinion poll on the recreation issue at the annual meeting.

MOTION by George Tyler, SECOND by Steve Atwood, to have a nonbinding survey regarding recreation department governance available during the Australian

ballot portion of the annual meeting, and that the survey shall not be part of the warned ballot, but be a separate poll.

DISCUSSION: John Lajza questioned how the matter can go forward without defining the responsibilities of each party. The two boards have not been able to get together and determine the responsibilities. George Tyler asked if there is anything further to hear from the public that will help make a decision. John Lajza said there must be a contract that allows the Trustees to accomplish the responsibilities they have. Dave Crawford commented there are some conditions that some board members feel have to be in the contract so the opinion poll could ask the public if there is support for an agreement with these conditions. Questions could include whether the governance issue should be in the contract, if an oversight committee should be created, and whether looking at the formulas should be in the contract. John Lajza said his position will not change and spoke in support of going forward with the Declaratory Judgment to define responsibilities. There were no further comments. Dave Crawford will draft sample questions for the survey.

VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request from Block Party Committee re: Motor Vehicle Ordinance

MOTION by John Lajza, **SECOND** by Steve Atwood, to authorize staff to draft the amendment to the motor vehicle ordinance with regard to parking at the annual block party.

DISCUSSION: George Tyler asked about liability if a car is damaged during towing. Dave Crawford said the village will tow cars parked on the street. The block party fund will pay for the towing and the village will have the liability. There were no further comments.

VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

VI. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

The Trustees received a memo on items in the Manager's Report.

1. Meeting Schedule

- March 8 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- March 22 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- April 6 @ 7:00 – Village Annual Meeting
- April 12 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- April 26 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- May 10 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- May 24 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- June 14 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- June 28 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting

Special Meetings/Events:

- March 3 @ 1 PM – Reception at CVE for Retiring Police Chief Leo Nadeau

- March 3 @ 5 PM – Sign Annual Meeting Warning
- April 12 – Australian Ballot Voting for Annual Meeting

2. Arts Grant

Staff is applying for a \$25,000 (minimum) grant with a one-to-one match. Application deadline is March 1st. A letter of interest can be sent and then the Trustees can decide if they want the grant. Endorsements from businesses in the village can be solicited.

3. Dog Park Ordinance

State land on West Street may be available for a dog park. Dogs cannot be off leash unless the village ordinance is amended to allow this to happen on the property.

4. Channel 17 Budget Presentation

March 10th is the budget presentation on Channel 17 and March 29th is the candidate forum.

5. Railroad Crossing

March 11-15, 2011 the railroad will be redoing every crossing. The crossings will be closed for up to 45 minutes each. Traffic will be detoured.

6. Legal Opinion from Joe O'Neil

The Trustees received copy of the opinion from attorney O'Neil.

VII. TRUSTEES COMMENTS/CONCERNS

John Lajza stated the recreation issue is very confrontational and urged being careful not to inflame the matter in the community. The intent by the Trustees was to go forward with low level negotiations, but that did not happen. The Declaratory Judgment is not suing, but is a clarification of what goes on. Some people are saying very provocative words on Facebook and the phone and setting bad examples for the children with their actions.

Peter Gustafson apologized and said he was ashamed to have allowed the tirades to go on and should have used the meeting gavel to stop the words against Trustee Lajza who has given many, many hours of community service to the village.

George Tyler stated the community is looking at the Trustees' actions and not hearing the words. The action by the Trustees was intended to be proactive, but the school district and public are not taking it that way and there is no explaining it away.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA & READING FILE

MOTION by George Tyler, SECOND by John Lajza, to approve the consent agenda as follows and with inclusion of the warrants (bill list, dated 2/22/11):

- 1. Approve Minutes (2/1/11 & 2/8/11)**
- 2. Approve Warrants**
- 3. Approve Waiver of Noise Ordinance for 4th of July Fireworks**
- 4. Reading List Acceptance (Letters & Communications)**

-
- Reception for Retiring Police Chief Leo Nadeau 3/3/11

VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION and/or ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by Steve Atwood, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous (4-0); motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM

RScty: M.E.Riordan