

VILLAGE OF SMITHTON
COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE
August 14, 2018
7:00PM

Mayor Klein, Trustees Yoch, Smallwood, Becherer, Rogers, and Elbe were present. Trustee Becker arrived late. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Residents Chuck and Karen Mueller were in attendance to address the board about a recent waterline repair.

Mayor Klein invited The Mueller's to address the board. Chuck Mueller informed the board that two weeks ago they received their water bill showing 13,000 gallons use. They called the office to report it so the street crew came out and found the meter spinning. There was no water running in the house. They checked out the yard for wet spots but did not find anything. The street crew came out again to check the meter and found that another 20,000 gallons had gone through. They pumped out the well and it filled up again. The other meter pits were dry, so it was thought that it wasn't ground water. A suggestion was made to contact a company in Caseyville to try to pinpoint a leak. Chuck was concerned about a water main that was installed in the subdivision 10 years ago. The company tore up the driveway at that time and while repairing the driveway they broke the water line. The company that broke the waterline then repaired and replaced the driveway. The street crew could hear water running at the meter so they assumed the leak was close by, probably in the union under the driveway. The company in Caseyville couldn't schedule an appointment to come out to pinpoint the location for almost a month. The water was then turned off at the meter. Chuck said that they were without water for three days. Chuck was out of town at the time all of this started. He contacted Ehret and it was again suggested that the leak was probably at the union and the best way to avoid it happening again would be to run a continuous line. They came out and bored under the driveway and dug the pit. The water was turned back on and immediately started to bubble up at the water meter, showing that the leak was in the tile in the pit. Ehret stated that at that point they couldn't fix it without getting permission from the Village and that it was the Village's responsibility if the leak was in the pit. Ehret advised replacing the service so that there wouldn't be any future problems due to the union. Chuck agreed. He would like the board to consider sharing the cost of service since the leak was in the five feet of the section that the village had worked on in the past. Chuck said that he spoke to the head of Illinois Rural Water, Hamilton County Water and a member of the board of Forsyth in Macon County. They all told him that if a leak occurred within the tile or meter pit then they would take care of the

cost or share in it. Ehret had told Chuck that Illinois American water would also help with the cost of a problem like that. Klein stated that he had gone out to the Mueller's several times during the water leak and had kept in contact with Chuck by phone. He did see the pit when it was full of water so the source of the leak couldn't be seen. After Ehret was there and the water was turned back on the leak could be seen about six inches from the meter on the Mueller's side. Klein doesn't know why the leak couldn't be seen in the pit initially when the pit was drained. Klein said that maybe the water leak followed the pipe out to the street and down into the rocks which made it hard to detect that there was a leak. Klein said that maybe the guys should have responded when Chuck asked for assistance when the leak was discovered in the pit, but it has always been the practice that the village is responsible for the meter to the main and the home owner's responsibility from the meter back to the house. Klein invited Chuck to speak to the board after he asked for assistance with the cost. Trustee Rogers asked how much the bill was. Chuck stated that the July bill showed a usage of 1182, and August will probably be that high as well. Chuck stated that the piece that actually failed was the piece that was put in during the project in the past. Chuck had the piece with him to show the board. Klein asked the amount of the repair cost. Chuck replied that it was \$3,737.00. Trustee Yoch stated that sometimes the copper pipes do fail. The board looked at pictures of the pit that showed the leak. Yoch stated that it was unfortunate that the leak wasn't spotted right away but to repair it the ground needed to be dug pretty far out anyway. Chuck stated that already the ground and the driveway have started settling and may need to be worked on again. Klein asked Chuck if he had an amount that he wanted the village to contribute to the cost. Chuck stated that he would like the village to pay half of the cost since the problem would not have happened if the village project had not involved his driveway. Klein stated that it was a village project but an outside company was contracted for the work. The outside company then used a different company to repair the driveway damage and that is when the pipe was broken so the subcontractor should be responsible. Chuck stated that his property has a history of problems including a 200-foot sewer line running through the property. Klein told Chuck that the board would discuss the matter and contact him. The Mueller's then left the meeting.

Klein informed the board that at the Village Board meeting after Clerk Boeving retires he would like to appoint Annette Parker as the Village Clerk effective September 1st, 2018 until the next election, with the boards consent. There are more than 180 days between the appointment and the next election so Parker would have to run in the election in April for a two year unexpired term. She would run as an incumbent. Klein stated that she would have to run in the following election for a 4 year term. Klein stated that Parker will do a great job. The board agreed.

Klein asked the board if they had read the letter from David Brennan. Klein stated that he had already signed the permit when he went in the back room to ask to see the plans again to refresh his memory. Brennan then got upset and started to accusing Klein, Rick Mueth, the

board, and the police officers. Klein tried to explain things calmly but ended up walking away. He soon went back and told Brennan not to accuse him of anything again. Brennan ended up by saying that if anybody looked at him crosswise at the picnic he would go to the newspapers. Klein stated that if Brennan did that then Klein could send the letter to the Tribune. Klein stated that Brennan thinks Engineer Saeger is trying to prevent him from opening his business. Klein stated that Saeger is very honest and doesn't have any intention of doing that. Saeger follows the rules. Permits and everything are compliant for now and Brennan hasn't complained lately.

Klein informed the board that the Smithton Lumber Supply Co. has closed for business. Klein stated that the Lumber Co. board had a meeting Thursday night and voted to sell the business to Neal Trentman and Mike Middendorf, Jr. There have already been statements made that one of the reasons that the business closed is that the Village didn't buy enough supplies from them compared to buying from Lee's Hardware in Millstadt. Klein stated that is not true. Receipts from the last five years show that the Village spent \$5,493.00 at Lee's and \$21,933.00 at Smithton Lumber. The only reason that we had to go to Lee's was because they didn't have what was needed at Smithton. Engineer Saeger is working with the new owners. They are requesting a special use permit. They want to fix up the buildings and use them for storage units. They will keep the business building and use the office space for a while. The inventory in the building was purchased with the sale. They talked about destroying the old building next to Village Hall. They plan on putting up a fence around the property. Klein did mention to Trentman that the Village had spoken to Smithton Lumber about purchasing the back portion of the property. Trentman told him that it could be discussed. Klein was told that they were not looking at building anything right away. Klein was told that the Historical Society was interested in saving the old building so Klein informed Trentman of that. Trentman responded that if grants were available it might be an option but that it would be very expensive without them.

Klein informed the board that he attended the Parks Grant Commission meeting last Friday. The commission is making \$50,000.00 available per community for this cycle. Klein reminded the board that they had discussed using approximately \$30,000.00 for the Senior Center flooring. Klein asked the board if they had ideas for the remaining \$20,000.00. The board had discussed replacing the stoves in the Senior Center also since they were installed in 1984. Frisbee golf and a splash pad were suggested for the park. Klein told the board that the street crew are supposed to start on the fishing docks at the park this week. They need to be finished by October to meet the grant deadline.

Trustee Smallwood told the board that there is a free work-order software available that looks promising. Orders can be entered into a phone and sent out to whoever needs it. The board stated that the trustees would be able to keep up with the progress on work orders.

Klein informed the board that he and Engineer Saeger met with Jake Griggs from BlueStem Energy about solar panels and wind turbines. Klein would like the board to hear his presentation so he will have Griggs come to the August 28, 2018 Committee As a Whole meeting. Klein stated that the problem with the solar panels that had been discussed in the past was that they village would be stuck with trying to dispose of the panels after they are done producing energy. Griggs told Klein that it could be put into the contract that BlueStem would remove the panels at the end of the time period.

Trustee Elbe informed the board that the siren boxes have arrived. They have not been installed because Chief Vielweber wants to discuss the installation with Dave Key. They have a meeting scheduled on Thursday.

Trustee Elbe asked Mayor Klein why Chief Vielweber is going to attend the conference in Chicago since he is retiring next year. Klein responded that since Vielweber is going to train the new Chief so he thought that he could get any up to date information to pass along. The board discussed it and felt that Vielweber doesn't need to attend the meeting and that it would save the Village the costs involved. Klein stated that he will inform Vielweber not to attend.

Mayor Klein informed the board that the police had active shooter training at both schools this week.

Trustee Yoch stated that he had tried to call Chief Vielweber and found out that he was on vacation. After discussion the board decided that they would like to know when Chief Vielweber, Supervisor Fults, and Engineer Saeger are on vacation. They would also like to know when important events happen. Mayor Klein stated that he will try to notify them.

CHUCK MUELLER WATERLINE REPAIR – Trustee Smallwood wanted to know why Ehret was doing the repair work instead of the street crew. Mayor Klein stated that what they were doing could not have been done by the street crew. The site of the leak wasn't discovered until Ehret had started to dig up the area. There was only six inches of dirt over the pipe at the house. Trustee Yoch read the ordinance which states that the owner shall be responsible and pay in full for the installation, labor and maintenance of any water service lines which run between the meter and the residence or business. Yoch stated that has always been the rule. He stated that if the leak was in the yoke it could be looked at differently. Klein stated that he didn't know why the leak hadn't been discovered by the street crew. Yoch replied that either way it was still on the owner's side but it would have been better if the leak could have been spotted right away by the street crew. Klein stated that the crew did sound the pipe and it sounded like the water was following the pipe under the driveway where the repair had been done in the past. At that point the street crew assumed that the leak was not the responsibility of the village. Trustee Elbe stated that the original project was at the village's request. Klein and Yoch both stated that the responsibility belongs to the subcontractor who tore up the pipe when

repairing the driveway. Trustee Rogers stated that he sees both sides of the argument. Yoch stated that the village should not have to pay Ehret's bill because part of it was for replacing the water line from his meter to his house. Klein stated that it was up to the board to decide how much if any that they want to pay towards the bill. The board decided to wait on making a decision.

ORDINANCE 38-4-33 SEWER RATES – Mayor Klein reminded the board that years ago when the village bought the lagoon the board decided that in town residents would have a minimum flat fee and a flat fee for Wildwood properties that dumped into Wildwood lagoon. Unincorporated properties had a different flat fee. The loan was paid off in 2014. According to the Ordinance in-town residents pay \$12.00 per month minimum. Residents that used to dump into Wildwood lagoon pay \$18.00 per month minimum. Old Wildwood pays \$24.00 per month minimum. Klein is not concerned about unincorporated properties because they have the option to annex into the village. The problem is that the auditor caught some neighbors having to pay more than the others. Klein looked it up and the ordinance states that when the debt service on the Wildwood lagoon system is paid in full the flat fee minimum rate will be frozen until the rates for the North collection system customers equals the rate for the Wildwood lagoon lift station customers. Klein states that the loan was paid off in 2014 but the people in Wildwood are still paying the \$18.00 minimum. Klein wants to know why they have to pay a higher rate when the in-town rates may not reach the higher rate for ten years. Klein thinks that the Wildwood lagoon charge should be eliminated from the Wildwood properties. It would include Wildwood West, Wildwood North, Ledgestone, Stonegate, and Tall Timbers. Trustee Becherer stated that the village would lose \$100.00 per household. Trustee Rogers suggested raising the old part of town residents to help even the rates. Klein stated that he doesn't think it fair that the rates should be so uneven when the loan has been paid off. The loan was paid off 4 years early. The loan would have been paid off in December of this year. Becherer suggested waiting until January 2019. After discussion the board would like to wait until May 2019 so that any changes can be incorporated into the next budget.

ORDINANCE 40-10-30 STANDARDS FOR VARIANCES – Mayor Klein informed the board that when Officer Neff asked for a variance for his shed it was brought up during the zoning hearing that he should have to prove that it would be a hardship if the variance was refused. Klein thinks that "hardship or convenience" should be removed from the ordinance. One of the zoning board members came in to talk to Klein about it and stated that the section in the ordinance make the decisions harder than they need to be when added to the advice given from the village council. The board agreed that Klein should talk to the zoning board members and Zoning Administrator Saeger before it is brought to a vote.

WATERLINE EXTENSION ON SCHIERMEIER LANE – Mayor Klein informed the board that Engineer Saeger provided copies of the cost estimate to extend the waterline on Schiermeier Lane. The cost would be almost \$500,000.00. Saeger checked the flood plain areas and where

the hookup would be on Countryside Lane. Klein doesn't think the project is feasible. It would be very expensive and the village may not be able to recoup the money. The board agreed after looking over the information. Klein will notify Tony Funderberg.

COMPLETE STREETS/SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – Trustee Yoch informed the board that he spoke to Engineer Saeger about this. Saeger stated that the application process is a little easier this time around. Rhutasel lined up most of the project application last time but had to be paid by the village. Yoch thinks that Saeger should be able to put most of this one together. Michelle Held told Yoch that she would help with portions of the application also. Yoch sent emails to the Complete Streets members to see if they would step up to help with the school surveys and see what the response would be. Mayor Klein and Trustee Becherer both voiced concerns about moving the crossing light and cross walk. They would rather see another one added. Yoch stated that it is too early to make decisions until the school has responded one way or the other. Yoch states that the grant would pay to install crosswalks and sidewalks. Klein stated that the grant board does have a say in where a sidewalk would be placed. Yoch stated that the Complete Streets Committee is very determined to get a crossing closer to the Park. The board agreed to wait until a response is received from the school.

Mayor Klein informed the board that he and Engineer Saeger met with a person from Ameren regarding a grant that will pay 100% of costs for all lights to be switched over to LED lighting for all village owned properties. There will be no costs involved. Ameren will have a company come out to install all of the lights. The fixtures will have to be changed at the Senior Center. The board agreed to proceed.

SCRAPPING OF REX(SCARIFIER) – Mayor Klein informed the board that Joe Bevenue had asked him if the board wants the scarifier to be scrapped. Bevenue said that it would be picked up and hauled away and broken down. The scrap would be sold and the village would receive a check. Trustee Becker thinks we should keep it. The board decided to check with the street crew to see what condition it is in and if it could be sold.

CODE BOOK UPDATE – The board reviewed more of the code book.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.