

VILLAGE OF SMITHTON
COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE
August 28, 2018
7:00PM

Mayor Klein, Trustees Yoch, Smallwood, Becherer, Rogers, and Elbe were present. Trustee Becker arrived during the first presentation. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Attending the meeting was a representative from Blue Stem Energy.

Jake Griggs from BlueStem Energy gave a presentation to the board about his company. He would like to do a feasibility study for the village to show the advantages of supplementing the village energy supply. There would be no charge to the village for the feasibility study. This would allow BlueStem to identify which renewable energy technology would give the greatest positive economic benefit for the community and what the village's 20-25year goal would be. BlueStem would not be replacing the current energy suppliers but they would be supplementing them. Recent legislation passed in Illinois gives incentives for renewable energy credits. Developers can take advantage of the credits to help drive down prices. Mayor Klein told Griggs that the only ground available for solar panels would be at the Wildwood wastewater treatment plant. Trustee Yoch asked if the energy produced would be for Village use only. Griggs responded that it would be for the village use and not sold back to the grid. That would kill the economics of the project. If the plans are not producing good results BlueStem would always make suggestions by talking to the Village first. The would not approach the residents with suggestions. Klein stated that the wastewater treatment acreage is in Monroe County Electric service area. He asked if the energy could be transferred to town to the Ameren usage area. Griggs stated that it could be. They would not use substations but put underground lines in and they would take care of getting any easements needed. Griggs stated that the feasibility study would take all of that into consideration. The study would take about nine months. Griggs stated that BlueStem would handle all of the infrastructure and they would own and operate that asset for the fixed amount of time that is decided on in the agreement. The Village would buy back energy from BlueStem at an agreed upon price. Griggs stated that he could not give prices before doing a feasibility study. Klein asked Griggs who would have to dispose of the panels at the end of their use. Griggs stated that it could be put into the contract that BlueStem would come out and remove the panels and return the acreage to how it was in the beginning. He stated that care of the panels would be BlueStem's responsibility also. Updates to renewable energy would be brought to the Village's attention.

Griggs stated that it would take 4-7 acres for megawatt solar panels. Wind turbines would take 1-3 acres per turbine. BlueStem would be responsible for taking care of the ground around solar panels and installing a fence around the edge. Griggs stated that at this time BlueStem would like to get permission for the feasibility study and then the Village can decide to proceed or not. Trustee Smallwood asked how long BlueStem has been in business. Griggs replied that they have been in business for ten years. Griggs stated that there is a Development Services Agreement which is a letter of intent stating that the Village and BlueStem agree to work together for a negotiated amount of time with the findings being presented to the Village at the end of that time. Griggs stated that there is a cost cap in the agreement that has never been called into play by BlueStem. It would limit the amount of loss of the study costs to BlueStem if the Village would cancel the agreement before the study is over. Otherwise there is no charge to the Village for the study. The Development period time is negotiable. The language of the Development Services Agreement can be modified for the Village. Yoch wanted to verify again that the Village would not be responsible for obtaining any easements. Griggs responded that that was correct, BlueStems' Property Manager and Developer would speak to the property owners involved. BlueStem would compensate the property owners for easements. Griggs stated that the price the Village pays now for energy will be going up but if an agreement with BlueStem is made then the price would not change for the life of the contract. Trustee Rogers asked if the energy would be applied to residents in town or the Village buildings only. Griggs replied that in the beginning it would only apply to the Village buildings. BlueStem would provide strategies to the Village to help make the project cost effective. Griggs stated that the findings of the study are exclusive to BlueStem and should not be made available to any other companies. Smallwood asked if BlueStem is working any other municipalities in the area. Griggs stated that the only area in Southern Illinois is Eldorado. Griggs stated that the next step would be for the board to vote on and sign the agreement. Klein stated that Attorney Durso is out of town and unable to review the agreement. The next date that any action could be taken would be September 18, 2018, if Durso gets a chance to review the information. Klein stated that he will contact Griggs. Griggs stated that Durso can contact him if he has any questions. Griggs then left the meeting. The board discussed other nearby towns that are installing solar energy panels.

Mayor Klein informed the board that Engineer Saeger was contacted about installing pickle-ball lines on the tennis court. There is a \$750.00 estimate for the project. The interested person stated that she may help with the cost. The board will decide at a later date.

Mayor Klein informed the board that he received a complaint from a resident in Elk Meadows regarding the loud music at the Block Party in Autumn Ridge. She asked someone to turn it down but they did not comply. Klein asked her if she had contacted the police. She replied that she did not. Klein informed her to contact the police in the future. Chief Vielweber told a trustee that the police did not receive any calls about the loud music. Trustee Yoch stated that he could hear the music at his house. He drove over to that neighborhood and stated that it

was very loud to the South of the party. Trustee Rogers heard complaints from two residents. Klein told the board that they can take the complaints into consideration for any future block-party requests.

Mayor Klein informed the board that he thinks if Annette Parker takes on the position of office manager as well as the Village Clerk position she should get a raise of \$1.00 per hour or more. Klein stated that he has not spoken to her about it yet but thinks that she should be compensated for all of the extra duties that she will be taking on. Klein stated that he has no doubt in his mind that the three ladies in the office will be able to take care of anything that comes up. They are very good at what they do. Klein told the board that he would like the board to consider raising Parker's salary.

Mayor Klein asked the board if they received the email that he sent them regarding Todd Grohmann. Monday morning Grohmann turned in to the East end of the Legion parking lot and back out the West entrance to go East on Buchanan. He turned wide and hit a car parked next to TLC. When Klein got there Officer Neff was already filling out a police report. The damage was to the rear end bumper and scraped the left back quarter. It took the trim off of the molding over the left rear well. Grohmann told Klein that he took the turn too wide. Klein didn't want him driving so Rolo Rausch picked him up and they tried to find a lab to do drug testing. None of the local labs have a contract with the Village so they wouldn't do any testing. A call was made to Midwest Truckers Association but they would only test if there was a citation given, there were injuries, or the vehicle had to be towed. Klein spoke to Chief Vielweber who told him that next time the employee can be given a citation for illegal lane usage or inattentive driving so that testing can be done. If the testing would come back negative then the citation could be dropped. Vielweber stated that he would call Memorial and see if a contract could be signed so that testing could be done when needed. Trustee Rogers stated that his employers use a company in Belleville. He will check on that. Klein said that he had kept Grohmann in the office while checking on the testing facilities. Vielweber gave Grohmann a breathalyzer test which was normal. Vielweber and Neff did not see any impairments with Grohmann so Klein let him go back to work. Klein stated that Grohmann was nervous because he knows he is on probation. Klein stated that the only reference to drug testing in the Ordinance book is that employees could be discharged if they tested positive for drugs or alcohol while on duty. There is no protocol for testing. There is a policy for FOP testing. Trustee Yoch stated that the board will be looking at the Ordinance soon. Yoch stated that he doesn't want the Village to pay a retainer to a lab. Becherer stated that a contract just needs to be signed. Klein will check into local labs for employee testing.

Trustee Elbe informed the board that the sirens in the Village office and Klein Drive have been repaired and will be tested next week.

Trustee Rogers informed Mayor Klein and the board that Engineer Saeger told him that the water fountain at the Senior Center is not working. Saeger has an estimate for a new one that would cost \$380.00. Klein told Rogers that he can bring it up at the next meeting. Rogers also would like to have the new LED lights for the village buildings on the agenda for the next meeting.

CHUCK MUELLER WATERLINE REPAIR – Mayor Klein asked the board if they had thought about the decision to be made regarding helping pay the cost for the water leak/meter repair at the Mueller's. Trustee Becherer stated that he drove out there to take a look and saw that the storm sewer in the back still needs to be leveled out. Klein stated that he told Mueller that the guys would come out this fall and level out the dirt. The original work was done last year and has been settling since then. Trustee Yoch stated that he thought the board decided years ago that the village would not seed yard/culvert repairs. Klein stated that the village would level ground but final grading and seeding would be the owner's responsibility. Trustee Elbe stated that there is a drain pipe in a residents yard in Wildwood west that drains into the yard that looks terrible. He stated that developer should have to pay the cost to bury drain pipes. Elbe said that the village should enforce that. Klein reminded the board that the Mueller's have a bill for \$3730.00 for repair work after the water leak. Klein told the board that there is a similar situation on High Street. When the street crew went to read the meter the pit was full of water. They drained it and it was determined that the water was coming from the Bailey's mobile home. Klein called and told Diane Bailey that it would be her responsibility. Klein met her and Darryl at the mobile home and verified that the leak was on her side of the meter. Klein stated that with the Mueller's leak being six inches away from the meter it is technically their responsibility. Ehret had recommended running a new line to the Mueller's home and Mueller agreed to do that. Klein stated that there isn't an example in the past of the village paying for a repair on the owner's side. Trustee Elbe stated that he thinks that the original repair was done for the Village so there should be some responsibility on the part of the Village. Klein said that the contractor should be responsible. Becherer stated that he can see Elbe's point of view but how long should responsibility last. Trustee Smallwood stated that the repair done years ago did work for years and doesn't have a warranty period. Trustee Rogers suggested not contributing to the repair work for the Mueller's but giving them a break on the water/sewer bill since the leak wasn't detected right away. Smallwood stated that he would agree with that. Yoch stated that it isn't really the responsibility of the street crew to locate the leak but there has been an example when the street crew couldn't find a leak and the village did give them a break on the water/sewer bill. Klein stated that the board needs to set a cap on the amount. Yoch suggested comparing the amount of water used this time last year and crediting the amount of the difference. The board decided to have Klein negotiate the amount of the credit to be applied after checking with the office to get the amounts of usage from last year.

ORDINANCE 40-10-30 STANDARDS FOR VARIANCES – Mayor Klein reminded the board that they discussed removing B and C from this Ordinance. Klein would like to bring it to a vote at the next Village Board meeting so that the Zoning Board members can make future Zoning hearing decisions without deciding if there is a hardship involved.

TREE & STUMP REMOVAL – Mayor Klein shared estimates of tree and stump removal with the board. There are two trees at 210 East Street and one at 220 N. Smith Street that need to come down. There will be stumps in the park that will need to be ground down after they get cut down. There are trees on Cass Street that Randy Becker wants to have cut down. He states that the squirrels are getting on to his roof from the trees. Some of the roots are pushing up areas of the sidewalk. The board discussed just trimming the trees and cutting the roots and possibly replacing sections of the sidewalk. The board will look at the trees on Cass Street before making a decision.

GENERATOR – KLEIN STREET – Trustee Becherer reported that he spoke to Engineer Saeger about the estimates for replacing the generator on Klein Street. They decided that the best option would cost \$28,600.00. It would be a 12week process because it will be built to order. The board decided to vote on it at the next Village Board meeting.

COMPLETE STREETS/SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – Mayor Klein reported that he has not had a chance to speak to Mr. Wamser at the school. Klein stated that he didn't get to tell the board at the last meeting that when he spoke to Wamser the first time, Wamser suggested moving the crosswalk to Cletus Street so that it would be closer to the park. Klein would like to see a crosswalk at Sunset Street. Trustee Rogers suggested still putting the sidewalks on Franklin Street whether or not the crosswalk is relocated there. Klein stated that this grant would be completely funded. A sidewalk could be put in running from Sunset Street to Julia Street. A sidewalk could run between Highway 159 and Bertille Drive along the curbing. Yoch stated that Complete Streets Committee would rather have a crosswalk closer to the park if a choice between sights has to be made. Rogers suggested a sidewalk along Lincoln Street for kids going to and from St. John's School. Yoch will meet with Engineer Saeger to discuss which plans Saeger thinks should be applied for in the grant.

LIMBS/COMPOST AREA – Mayor Klein informed the board that people have dumped kitchen counter-tops and decking material out at the park. Klein feels that the dumping area should be closed to the public because people are abusing the limb pile as well as the compost pile. The board stated that there is a gate that can be closed and locked. The camera could be adjusted to film the gate area to catch illegal dumpers. Trustee Yoch doesn't want to punish all of the residents because of a few abusers. If someone could check the site every day then the cameras could be checked to catch whoever is doing it. Trustee Rogers stated that there is a battery operated hunting camera located back there that could be hardwired to run continuously. Trustee Elbe stated that tickets need to be given out right away so that word of

mouth will spread and hopefully help eliminate the problem. Trustee Smallwood said that he was at Casey's the other day when someone drove up in a UTV without a permit. A policeman pulled up right next to him without questioning the driver. Klein stated that he will check with the officers about that.

Klein informed the board that he has spoken to the management at Dollar General about the trash pile-up in the corner of their parking lot.

CODE BOOK UPDATE – The board did not review the code book updates.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.