

VILLAGE OF SMITHTON  
COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE  
September 25, 2018  
7:00PM

Mayor Klein, Trustees Becker, Yoch, Smallwood, Becherer, Rogers and Elbe were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Klein informed the board that he received a call from Jake Griggs with BlueStem Energy. Griggs asked if there were any specifics that could be put into the contract that would satisfy Attorney Durso so that a Feasibility Study could still be entered into. Klein asked the board what their thoughts were. Trustee Yoch wanted to know specifically what Durso didn't like about the contract. Klein replied that Durso stated that the contract didn't even mention the Feasibility Study. Trustee Becherer said that Durso reported that the contract didn't state that there would be no charge to the village for the Feasibility Study. Klein stated that he still doesn't think that the easements could be obtained to proceed with the project. After discussion the board didn't think the project was feasible and that Klein should inform Griggs of that decision.

Mayor Klein informed the board that they are invited to attend a ground-breaking ceremony for the Waterloo Bank that will be constructed in town next to Fieldview Subdivision. The ceremony will be on October 1, 2018 at 10:00am.

Mayor Klein informed the board that the new owners of the Lumber Company property were meeting with Father Stan Konieczny from St. John the Baptist School to discuss the proposed storage site. The owners had asked Klein if they could attend the Committee As a Whole meeting if the board was going to discuss the proposed storage site. Klein had not put it on the agenda for discussion so he asked Attorney Durso if it could still be discussed. Durso replied that if it was not on the agenda it could not be discussed at the meeting. Klein called the owners and informed them that all that they could do would be to report to the board about the meeting with Father Stan. Trustees Becker and Yoch both agreed that they would hate to see the Lumber Company property sit empty and not be fixed up. Mayor Klein informed the board that the proposed outside storage at the Smithton Storage Center was not approved at the Zoning hearing that was held on September 24, 2018. The board stated that they should learn why the decision was made to deny it. Klein gave them a few details but did not have all

of the information. Klein thinks that if one storage unit would get approved but not the other then there may be an issue. Klein stated that the board could always set stipulations if the decisions would come to them. Klein stated that there may need to be a discussion at a Committee As a Whole meeting involving all interested parties. Klein said that at the next board meeting one of the trustees can make a motion to table it until it can be discussed at the next Committee As a Whole meeting. Trustee Rogers asked if the trustees could all receive the minutes from the zoning hearing before next weeks' board meeting.

MIKEY'S PUB OUTSIDE MUSIC PERMIT – Mayor Klein stated that he is concerned with the additional permit requests for Mikey's Pub that he received from Shirley Pilla. He has received requests for two outside music requests for every weekend now through the middle of November. Klein stated that he did call Shirley Pilla at Mikey's this past Sunday because he could hear the music from his house. She did have it turned down. At 9:15 that evening Doug Gerold called the police to complain about loud outdoor music from Mikey's. Officer Whitney drove past Mikey's with all of the vehicle windows down and could not hear the music. He went to Gerold's house and asked him if he had heard the music from inside of his house. Gerold replied no. He had walked outside and heard music so he called the police. Whitney asked why he called the police for something like that. Gerold told him that the trustees told him to call the police with any complaints. Klein told the board that Gerold had called when he didn't even hear the music from inside his house. Whitney asked the Pilla's to turn off the outside speaker which was what Gerold had heard. The Pilla's turned off the outside speaker which wasn't even loud according to Whitney. Trustee Smallwood stated that he could hear the music from his driveway on Sunday evening. Smallwood thinks that the Pilla's are starting to take advantage of the additional requests. Trustee Yoch agreed. Klein stated that the board could make stipulations. After discussion the board decided to tell the Pilla's that the board will only approve one additional requested day per weekend. The board asked Klein to inform Shirley Pilla before the next meeting so that she can try to check the band schedule and see if she needs to cancel any dates.

STREET EMPLOYEE VACANCY – Mayor Klein informed the board that a replacement street worker will need to be hired in the near future. He asked the board if they wanted to advertise the job opening or interview the applicants from the previous job opening. Trustee Becherer said that he looked through the applications again. One of the applicants had called to say that he didn't want the job anymore. A different applicant who interviewed worked in O'Fallon. The trustees had only shown interest in two of the others. The board agreed that the job opening should be advertised. Klein will have the advertisement ran in the Freeburg Tribune for the week of October 4, 2018 and again on October 18, 2018, with the application deadline of 5:00pm October 31, 2018.

TREE AND STUMP REMOVAL – Mayor Klein informed the board that the cost estimate from Deterding Tree Service for cutting down, clean-up, grinding down the stump, but leaving the trunk would be \$680.00 for 210 East Street. The other tree on East Street would cost \$1480.00. It would save the Village \$560.00 by leaving the trunks. Trustee Rogers knows someone who would come and remove the trunks. Klein stated that they should remove the trunks as soon as possible after the trees are cut down. Also included in the cost estimate is the tree located at 224 N. Smith Street, and six stumps that will need to be ground down in the Park after the street crew cuts down the trees. The board agreed to vote on it at the next Village board meeting. Mayor Klein asked the board if they had a chance to look at the two trees on the Smith Street between South Street and Cass Street. The resident expressed concern to Klein that they may fall on his house or garage in a storm. Klein thinks that some of the branches could be trimmed, but that the trees are not dead. The big tree on Julia Street can wait because Klein thinks that the homeowner has contacted a tree service. The smaller tree on the corner of Julia will be cut down by the homeowner.

PICKLEBALL LINE REQUEST – Mayor Klein and the board discussed the request for new Pickleball lines on the tennis court. The resident requesting it offered to pay for the paint. Klein stated that this hasn't been the first resident to request this. The board agreed that the lines should be painted by a professional. Klein will see if the resident wants to try to raise donations towards the costs.

STORM SEWER – 2 S. HICKORY – Mayor Klein asked the board if they had looked at the hole at the storm sewer at 2 S. Hickory Street. The work was done about 60 years ago. One of the residents asked Klein if the Village could repair the damage. Klein looked at the Street Regulations Ordinance which showed that a property owner would be responsible for 50% of the repair costs. Trustee Rogers stated that there are two separate pipes that run down the sides of Breckenridge and meet at the storm sewer. Trustee Becherer stated that a new pipe could be put in but the costs might not be determined until the digging starts and the damage is known. Klein will call the resident and let her know that she would be responsible for 50% of the costs. Trustee Becker stated that there is an area at 210 S. Main that needs repair to the tiles. Mayor Klein stated that it would be eligible for the same 50% cost split. There are MFT funds available for repairing storm water pipes if the damage is in an easement.

CODE BOOK UPDATE – The board reviewed the suggested code book changes.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ZONING HEARING – Mayor Klein informed the board that LeChien, LeChien and Schlueter are applying for a special use permit to put in solar panels on 20 acres. Klein thinks that it is prime subdivision land that could be used in the future for a possible subdivision for the Village. The ground belongs to Schlueter and is located behind Ervin Fix's, across the street from the Catholic War Vets. A company would put in the solar panels and then the

electricity would be sold back to the grid. The board agreed to have Klein attend the meeting to oppose it.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – Mayor Klein informed the board that Mark Rujawitz contacted him with concerns about putting in a crossing light at Cletus Street as suggested by Mr. Wamser. Rujawitz suggested taking the crossing light and the sidewalk on Cletus Street off of the list for possible projects on the application for the Safe Routes to School Grant. He thinks that there would be a better chance to go with the crossing on either Brevo Street, Center Street, or Sunset Drive, with sidewalks on Bertille Street, Sunset Drive between Highway 159 and N. Julia and N. Julia and Lincoln Street, and also on Brevo Street between Highway 159 and N. Julia and between N. Julia and N. Lincoln. Klein stated that with three options hopefully one of them will get approved. The cap on the grant is \$200,000.00. The board agreed with the proposed options. Klein will inform Rhutasel and Associates.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12pm.