

VILLAGE OF SMITHTON  
COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE

June 11, 2019

7:00PM

Mayor Smallwood, Trustees Yoch, Becherer, Rogers, Elbe, Henning, and Mourey were present. Street employee Dean Klein attended the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Attorney Durso arrived a few minutes late.

CODIFICATION REVIEW/ATTORNEY DURSO

Attorney Durso and the trustees reviewed changes in the code book. Chapters 3, 4, 6, and 7 were reviewed.

PHARMACY REQUEST

Attorney Durso reported that he has not been able to research state statutes about the village donating money towards the drug lock box located at the pharmacy. Durso thought that there may be a statute against the village donating to something that might help the business financially. Mayor Smallwood stated that he thinks the drug box would provide a service to the community. He told the board that some residents have voiced their disapproval of the village refusing to make a donation. He would like to bring it to a vote at next week's board meeting. Trustee Mourey suggested buying the liner bags. Durso will start researching statutes and get back to the board.

PARK BUILDING

Mayor Smallwood reported that Chris Davis from the SAA was going to attend the meeting to answer any questions about the proposed new storage building at the park, but did not make it. Smallwood and the board had copies of the proposed building plan. Smallwood told Davis that he should come up with bids for the building. A total cost would be needed before a grant could be applied for. The costs would need to include the removal of the old buildings. A variance will be needed for the wall height of the building.

RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION/INSPECTION ORDINANCE

Trustee Yoch informed the board that the ordinance committee met and discussed options for an ordinance to address rental properties. The committee looked at three ordinances concerning occupancy permits. The committee looked mainly at the rental occupancies. Yoch reported that they researched some of the local municipalities for occupancy permits or residency forms but did not find them on any of the websites. The police department would like to at least get names of the household members and birthdates so that background checks could be obtained. Trustee Mourey stated that he could get one of the forms from Belleville. Mourey stated that in Belleville the requirements for the number of inhabitants is decided by

the number of bedrooms. The county does the inspections for the physical aspect of the buildings. New inspections and forms are needed yearly unless someone moves out in less than a year. Yoch suggested having the occupancy forms but not require inspections. The trustees were in favor of a simple plan to start with. They would like to require landlords to register any rental property. Mourey will get Yoch a copy of the occupancy form that Belleville uses. Yoch will speak to Officers Wilson and Neff again and work together with the board to devise a form.

#### SALT STORAGE BUILDING

Mayor Smallwood asked the trustees if the salt storage building project should be tabled until the village knows how much will be spent on the Early Retirement Initiative. Trustee Mourey stated that he spoke to Dean Klein and Engineer Saeger about changing the plans to poured concrete walls. Smallwood informed Mourey to go ahead and come up with a plan for the future, but for now this item will be taken off of the agenda.

Dean Klein asked the board if they would consider hiring another part-time street employee to help out with the back log of work since Frank Russell is going to be out on sick leave for another two weeks. The trustees were agreeable.

Dean Klein gave pictures of the limb pile at the park to the trustees. Someone had dumped a pile of lumber. Klein would like to try moving the camera. The trustees discussed locking the gate and other options. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.

#### POLICE PERSONNEL

Trustee Elbe handed out the Police Chief's job description that the trustees had discussed in the past. The salary for the new Police Chief position was discussed after the board reviewed the present police department salaries. They would like to eliminate any overtime for the Chief's position. The trustees will review the handouts and discuss the salary at the next Committee As a Whole meeting.

#### SIGN VIOLATION ORDINANCE

Trustee Yoch shared photographs with the board of an outdoor sign that the Smithton Liquor Store put up on the outside of their building. Yoch checked with Engineer Saeger who stated that they had contacted him in the past about putting up a sign but nothing else was done about it. Yoch stated that the sign is in violation of the ordinance because it is too big for the size of the building. Yoch stated that as Zoning Administrator, Saeger would like the board's guidance on how to proceed. Trustee Becherer asked if Saeger had definitely told them no. Yoch wasn't sure of the details on that. Yoch will check with Saeger for more details. Yoch asked the trustees if he finds out that Saeger did deny it, then do they want to require it to be taken down. He stated that if the board did that, then the sign on the side of All Mart should be

taken down. The trustees agreed that the Smithton Liquor sign would need to come down if Saeger definitely told them that they could not put up the sign. Yoch will follow up with Saeger.

#### WILDWOOD LAGOON GRASS

Mayor Smallwood informed the board that Corby Valentine had mowed the grass in the Wildwood Lagoon in the past and used it for hay. Recently Dwight Espenscheid has been mowing it and giving Valentine part of the profits from the hay. Smallwood was mistakenly informed that the street crew was mowing the grass. One of the street guys asked if he could mow the grass for hay, so Smallwood told him yes. Espenscheid called and told Smallwood that he had already spent money seeding the lagoon, so Smallwood told him that he could mow it and keep the hay. He told the street employee what happened and that he couldn't mow it. Smallwood asked the trustees if they would be interested in leasing the property. This will be discussed again at a future committee meeting.

#### COMPREHENSIVE PARK PLAN

Trustee Henning asked the board for authorization to get bids for rubber mulch for the playground. He would also like to get money appropriated for a new grill near the main pavilion. Henning would like to set an approximate date for the street crew to start on the lake riprap. Henning would like to have the riprap delivered in single loads so the street crew can place it one load at a time. He will work with Dean on when to have the first delivery. Henning informed the board that he was planning on using some of the wood chips from the trees that Ameren are trimming in town. The trustees advised him not to use them since the chips are not treated and will draw bugs. Henning wanted to clarify where the benches for Ray Klein and Brian Vielweber should be placed at the Memorial. Mayor Smallwood stated that they should be placed along the walkway approaching the Memorial from Highway 159. Henning asked the board for approval to purchase and place more sand in the volleyball court at the park. Smallwood and the trustees agreed that Henning could make a motion at the next Board meeting.

Mayor Smallwood and the board discussed replacing the tree that died after the street crew repaired a water line at 4550 Elk Meadows. Trustee Becherer shared prices from Dintelmann's Nursery. An 8-10 foot tree would be \$130.00 plus \$100.00 to plant it. A 7-8 foot tree would be \$90.00 plus \$100.00 for planting. Becherer is unsure if that price includes removal of the dead tree. The trustees agreed that if the owner removes the dead tree then the village would pay for a new 8-10 foot tree for \$130.00 and pay for the planting cost. Smallwood will contact the resident and see if he is agreeable.

Trustee Yoch informed the board that he spoke to former Swansea Mayor Buehlhorn and found out that Smithton is not on the list to receive funds for Governor Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois Capitol Plan. Jerry Costello resigned from representing Smithton and Nathan Reitz took over as one of our representatives. Mayor Smallwood will reach out to Reitz.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:47pm.