

MINUTES
SMITHTON VILLAGE
COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE MEETING
January 26, 2021

Due to an increase in Covid 19 cases, this meeting was held via teleconference. Mayor Smallwood called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Trustees Yoch, Becherer, Rogers, Elbe, Henning and Mourey attended via teleconference. Supervisor Klein also participated in the meeting via teleconference.

Mayor Smallwood informed the Trustees that someone asked him about getting a license for a fireworks stand in the Village. He told them the requirements and will keep the Board informed if it is pursued.

BUDGET

Trustee Becherer reported that he is receiving budget numbers from the Committees. He still needs to get numbers for the revenue side.

SENIOR CENER

Trustee Henning is still working on a solution for the higher internet charges for the Senior Center. He suggested paying for a fixed rate plan with Mediacom that would be paid for by the Village. The trustees were agreeable to vote on this at the next Board meeting.

ANNEXATION

Mayor Smallwood informed the Board that a property owner North of town wants to annex his property, but he wants to keep the property zoned agricultural. There will be a Zoning hearing regarding this matter on February 3, 2021 via teleconference.

STONEGATE HOA

Mayor Smallwood informed the Board that the HOA President of Stonegate Subdivision, Ken Duff, contacted him about erosion problems with the ditch at the entrance to the subdivision. Duff contacted IDOT and was told that years ago the subdivision residents refused to grant a larger easement when the state was widening the highway. The state had to make the ditch narrower and deeper. IDOT offered Duff some solutions to the problem. Duff would like the Village to bury and cover pipes and the HOA would continue to pay for lawnmowing the ground. Smallwood was told by Engineer Saeger that the costs to the Village for that would be about \$225,000.00. IDOT stated that if the Village did that then the Village would have to assume responsibility to maintain the storm sewer infrastructure. Smallwood told Duff that the Village does not have that cost in the budget, or the time to maintain it. He stated that the Village also has other aging infrastructure that needs to be maintained first. Smallwood did tell Duff that he would bring it to the Board for discussion. The IDOT Engineer stated that the standing water issue comes from farther South along the highway in the Township section. The Trustees agreed that per Village Ordinance the Village cannot contribute to new infrastructure on private property – and the

property in question is in an easement under the State. Smallwood will inform Duff to pursue a different solution.

MAJOR CASE SQUAD

Trustee Elbe reminded the Board that there were questions regarding any overtime resulting from an Officer working with the Major Case Squad. Chief Neff contacted local Municipalities that have Officers in the Squad. He was told that they have not had any issues with the FOP for using comp time instead of overtime. Elbe stated that an Officer would not have to participate with a case if there are issues with coverage at the time. It would be up to Chief Neff to determine if the Officer could participate in a case or not. This item will be brought to a vote at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Elbe informed the Board that Chief Neff would like to send two Officers to a drug enforcement class. This will have to be voted on at the next Board meeting.

WILLOW OAK PROPERTY

Mayor Smallwood reminded the Board that a property owner on Willow Oak Drive in Wildwood Subdivision has a lift station on the property that he would like to annex. He would like the annexation fees as well as the water and sewer tap fees waived in lieu of granting an easement around the lift station. The Village will do a title search on the property to see if there is an easement in place. A decision on the property owner's proposal will depend on the results of the title search. Smallwood will inform the Board of the title search results.

VISU-SEWER/STORM PIPE

Supervisor Klein informed the Board that he has worked with Engineer Saeger on costs for having Visu-Sewer seal the joints in stormwater pipes that are causing sinkholes. Saeger and Klein believe that there are enough MFT Funds available to seal the water pipes on Fieldview. Mayor Smallwood asked Klein to verify estimates with Saeger and where the money would come from in the budget. Klein could then bring the item back to the Board with a request for a specific amount.

VEHICLE STICKERS & ANIMAL TAGS

Trustee Yoch informed the Board that he is working with Attorney Durso on rescinding the sections of Ordinances that require vehicle stickers and animal tags for Village residents. If the new ordinance is ready, it will be brought to a vote at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Yoch asked the Board their view on changing the language in an existing ordinance to state that the Street Department Supervisor is included in the on-call rotation. The Trustees agreed. Yoch will work on the language for the ordinance.

Trustee Rogers made a motion which was seconded by Trustee Elbe to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion was granted. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.