

Regular Board Meeting

The Whiting Village Board met January 13, 2009 at the Whiting Municipal Center, 3600 Water Street. The news media and all persons required to be notified of the meeting were given such notice. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Walters and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: President Walters, Trustees Wachowiak, Walkush, Lehner, Hoppenrath and Coulthurst all present. Trustee Brindley was excused. Also present were Paul Stroik, Kevin and Jeni Lutz, Dan Kontos, Jeff Schlegel and Scott Groholski of Point of Beginning.

Motion by Wachowiak, seconded by Walkush to approve the December 9, 2008 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Safety Chairman Wachowiak told the Board that compliance of the Knox Box program for all commercial buildings is the end of March. The Committee did meet during the month.

Fire Chief Kontos presented 2008 Run Summary for the Fire Department. The new SCBA equipment is in service. Old equipment is stored in municipal storage room and is for sale. Chief Kontos is pleased with strides the Metro District has made. A full review of the program will be conducted in June.

Trustee Wachowiak reported the Public Works and Parks Committee Report in Chairman Brindley's absence. Discussion by the Committee on whether the full time public works and parks employee should be cross trained for utility work. An application is being prepared for the Portage County Land Preservation Grant. The Committee also received notice that the Village had been awarded the Urban Forestry Grant for \$15,000. The grant is a 50/50 split. Specifications were developed for new public works and parks truck. Money received from the sale of the old truck will go toward the purchase of the new truck.

Motion by Lehner, seconded by Walkush to accept the Public Works and Parks Committee meeting minutes of December 30, 2008 as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Kim Hoppenrath reported the Utilities Committee met December 9, 2008 and January 6, 2009 and decided to hire a full time Utilities Assistant Manager but still plan to cross train public works and parks employee for emergencies. The new Wastewater Treatment Facility should be in full operation by mid May. Landscaping and finishing the office building will follow.

Chairman Hoppenrath has contacted Hutchinson & Erley regarding calling the Bond Anticipation Notes in October to take advantage of interest rates. Both audit work and water rate study must be completed prior to doing this.

Motion by Lehner, seconded by Coulthurst to approve the December 9, 2008 and January 6, 2009 Utilities meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

President Walters reported the Plan Commission met January 5, 2009 to consider Plat of Condominium for River View, 1800 Sherman Avenue. The Plat identifies both the existing nursing home and the new River View as two separate entities but all other factors of the property such as parking and trails as common areas. A Surveyors Note will appear on Plat of Condominium stating that the parking stalls and storm water detention ponds located within the road right of way of Sherman Avenue will be relocated to Lot 1 or Lot 2 of the Certified Survey Map and meet all requirements of the Village.

Motion by Hoppenrath, seconded by Walkush to accept the Plan Commission's recommendation for River View Plat of Condominium as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion by Lehner, seconded by Walkush to accept the Plan Commission meeting minutes of January 5, 2009 as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion by Lehner, seconded by Coulthurst to adopt resolution to borrow money from the State Trust Fund for purchase of public works and parks truck. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Hoppenrath, seconded by Wachowiak to approve the specifications for the new public works and parks truck as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

An information meeting will be held to discuss fire protection or hydrant rental charges and if all of the charges or a portion of the charges will be shifted from the Village tax levy to the Whiting Utilities customers.

President Walters asked the Board for authorization to conduct preliminary appraisal work for NewPage land. The funds will be reimbursed with grant money.

Motion by Hoppenrath, seconded by Lehner to authorize funds to conduct appraisal work for the New Page land. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Wachowiak, seconded by Walkush to adopt resolution to submit grant application to the DNR for New Page land located north of Wallace Place and west of Cedar Street W. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion by Walkush, seconded by Coulthurst to approve all claims for the Village of Whiting and Whiting Utilities as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.