

**VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG
FEBRUARY 19, 2019 REGULAR MEETING
OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

President Edwin Hettermann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Attendees

Trustee Kevin McEvoy (absent)

Trustee Greg Klemstein

Trustee Kyle Frost

Trustee Tom Curry

Trustee Mary Lou Hutchinson

Trustee Josh Hagen

Village Engineer Tim Hartnett

Special Project Assistant Rick Quinn

Chief Keith VonAllmen

FROM THE FLOOR – Neil Herbert of 1305 Old Bay Road attended regarding the Chapel Hill Golf Course. He questioned how the acquisition of the course is working out for the Village. President Hettermann stated that it is going well. He explained that the Village is not seeing a large profit due to the improvements it is pursuing at the course but revenues generated through the management agreement are supporting operational costs.

OMNIBUS AGENDA – Trustee Curry moved to approve the Omnibus Agenda. Trustee Hagen seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted aye on the roll. Motion carried.

- Move to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting of the President and Board of Trustees
- Move to approve Ordinance 18-19-35 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property
- **Disbursements**
- General Fund \$133,973.80
- MFT
- Waterworks & Sewage Fund 8,098.47
- Debt Service/SSA Fund
- Total All Funds \$142,072.27

MAZESKI VARIANCE – The Board performed a first read of Ordinance 18-19-36 Granting a Variance to Section 11.4-3.4 of the Johnsbury Zoning Ordinance for the property commonly known as the Johnsbury Dental Center property. Trustee Hutchinson noted that the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission is to grant a reduced setback to 10 feet rather than the originally requested 5 feet. She questioned if the change will pose a problem for the petitioner. Mr. Mazeski stated that although it is a bit more limiting, he believes he can work with the limitation.

RESIDENTIAL REFUSE AND RECYCLING - Vaughn Kuerschner attended to discuss changes that have happened in the recycling market this past year. He explained that prior to 2018 acceptable recycling contamination was approximately 10-15%. Contamination of recyclables from the US nationally average approximately 25%. He explained that China, the world's largest importer of recyclable material, has changed the guidelines of what is an acceptable ratio and has now established it at .5%. The change has had a significant impact on the US recycling industry as the transportation and processing costs have increased significantly. Mr. Kuerschner explained that there are several components to the solution. He emphasized that education plays a large role as most people want to do the right thing but need to be re-educated on what is a recyclable item partly due to changes that have occurred in the packaging industry. He emphasized that

plastic bags are one of the biggest contamination problems. Mr. Kuerschner provided a photo of what plastic bags do to the processing equipment and explained that they can oftentimes lead to a complete shutdown of the equipment. He added that people often bag their recyclables to separate them, which contributes to the problem. Mr. Kuerschner reviewed a document that reflects the ten most common recyclable contaminants. After plastic bags, food in containers is the next largest problem. He explained that people oftentimes recycle full or partially full food jars and beverage bottles. He asked the Village to assist with the educational component by getting information out in its newsletters, website, and other communication tools.

Mr. Kuerschner shared some information regarding problems occurring in other communities locally. He stated that Kankakee was experiencing more than 70% contamination in its recyclables and the hauler informed them that they can no longer provide curbside recycling. Discussion took place regarding education in the schools. Mr. Kuerschner explained that the approach should be "when in doubt, throw it out". Trustee Hutchinson pointed out that in the early days of recycling, residents were required to separate their recyclables and if the materials were not separated and properly prepared, they were not picked up. She questioned if thought has been given to going back to that approach. Mr. Kuerschner stated that is the approach the industry is trying to get back to but it will take time.

Mr. Kuerschner stated that another component of the solution is cost. He explained that per the current contract, the Village is supposed to receive a rebate, which Waste Management is no longer able to provide because of the rising cost associated with recycling. Mr. Kuerschner added that the removal of the recycling rebate would require an amendment to the contract. He stated they are also seeking an increase in the contract by \$1.96 per home per month.

The Board discussed the current contract and reviewed an analysis performed by Waste Management, which reflected the reasons for the requested cost increase. Trustee Klemstein questioned the reaction from other communities. Mr. Kuerschner stated that the response has been pretty much the same and some have approved an increase in the contract, some have not. Trustee Frost questioned the current amount of the recycling rebate. Mr. Kuerschner stated that it is currently around \$200-\$210 per month. He explained that they are looking to remove the recycling rebate and institute a rate increase.

Trustee Klemstein stated that the Village performed a survey of other communities and noted that our rates are currently consistent with other communities. He explained that Hebron, Ringwood and Johnsburg are the only McHenry County communities contracting with Waste Management. He stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the matter and considered several factors. First, he pointed out that Waste Management has been seeing record gains and doing well despite the changes in the recycling industry. Additionally, the Committee considered that Waste Management requested the contract extension and questioned if market impacts created a more advantageous situation, would a savings have been passed on to the residents.

The Board discussed the need to continue to educate the public and perform enforcement of the regulations at the curb. Mr. Kuerschner stated that typical learning patterns follow three approaches - tell me, show me and make me. He asked the board to consider the removal of the recycling rebate at this time and then further discuss the rate increase. Trustee Frost reinforced the need to educate our residents and students in the schools. He stated that he is willing to consider the removal of the recycling rebate but is unwilling to go to the residents to impose an increase at this time. President Hettermann pointed out that when comparing our rates with other communities, the costs may be similar, but the services are greater. He stated that the unincorporated areas adjacent to the Village receive unlimited waste, recycling and yard waste pickup for approximately \$22 per month. He remarked that if the \$1.96 increase is added to the current rate it brings our cost close to the Townships without the added services. President Hettermann reinforced the need to continue to work with Waste Management to educate our residents and do what we can to keep costs down but expressed that he is unwilling to take action on the request to eliminate the recycling rebate and impose a cost increase until more information is provided.

Trustee Hutchinson expressed an interest in knowing if the contamination rate has increased since the Village imposed the one can limit. She explained that the limitation which was done in an effort to get people to recycle more though it may have resulted in people throwing inappropriate items into their recycling bins to avoid having to pay for a sticker or increased garbage pickup. Mr. Kuerschner stated that as sticker rates go up, they have seen people placing more garbage items in their recycling bins.

Mr. Kuerschner thanked the board for considering the matter. President Hettermann tabled the matter to the following meeting for further consideration.

LIQUOR LICENSE FEES - Trustee Klemstein reported on the research performed on liquor license and other business related fees. He explained that the fees have not changed since 2008. He added that non-home rule communities may only charge \$25 per machine for video gaming while home rule communities are charging much higher fees. The Board discussed increases proposed by the Finance Committee. President Hettermann pointed out that the recommendation by the Committee brings our fees more in line with other communities. Trustee Klemstein explained that the recommendation is to increase the fees for this year beginning with the renewals in May. Additional discussion took place regarding the daily fee and Class E fee. Trustee Frost recommended to decrease the Class E to \$250, which is more in line with McHenry and Spring Grove. Trustee Klemstein move to approve liquor license fees as follows: Class A - \$1700, Class A-1 \$2000, Class B \$1250, Class C - \$500, Daily Permit- \$100 and Class E \$250 plus \$50 per event. Trustee Frost seconded the motion. All Trustees present voted aye. Motion carried.

TRICK OR TREAT – The Board discussed the results of the survey conducted regarding trick or treating. Trustee Curry informed the Board that the Community Affairs Committee voted on the matter and three members abstained while five of the remaining six members in attendance voted to move it to Sunday. He explained that the survey results reflect that 58% of the residents would prefer to keep trick or treating on Halloween. President Hettermann requested the minutes from the committee meeting before making a decision.

ADJOURNMENT – Trustee Curry moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Hagen seconded the motion. All Trustees voted aye on the roll. Motion carried at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Claudett Peters
Village Administrator*