

VILLAGE OF ROCKTON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2023

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Present: Mayor Peterson, Mr. Baumgartner, Mr. Danielson, Mrs. Honkamp, Ms. May, Mr. Seever, Mr. York and Atty. Dave Kurlinkus

Staff present: Tricia Diduch & Chief Hollinger

Also present: Dave Winters

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Seever, second by Mr. Danielson, to waive the reading of the January 3, 2023 Village Board meeting minutes. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Motion by Mr. York, second by Mr. Seever, to approve the January 3, 2023 Village Board meeting minutes. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. York stated that he would like to remove Item #2 under himself. Motion by Mr. Seever to approve the amendments to the agenda, second by Mr. York. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MAYOR PETERSON

Motion by Ms. May to approve the appointment of Dennis Hildebrandt as Village Treasurer, second by Mr. Baumgartner. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY

None.

ZONING

Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing in regards to the pre-annexation of 1302 N. Blackhawk Boulevard at 7:09 pm. Hearing no comments, Mayor Peterson closed the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

Motion by Mr. York to approve Ordinance 2023-2: Approval of a Pre-Annexation Agreement Regarding the Property Commonly Known As 1302 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton, IL 61072 and Authorizing the Village President of the Village of Rockton to Execute the Same, second by Mrs. Honkamp. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

Motion by Mr. York to approve Ordinance 2023-3: Map Amendment for 1302 N. Blackhawk Blvd. to R-1 Single Family District, second by Mr. Baumgartner. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL – MR. YORK

Mr. York shared the Rockton Police Department activity summary from January 1st-15th with the Village Board.

Motion by Mr. York to approve Resolution 2023-101: A Resolution of the Village of Rockton, Illinois (Village) to Approve and Authorize the Village President to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Village and the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Union) Regarding the Use of Personal Vehicles for Traveling to Court, second by Mr. Seever. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

ADMINISTRATION – MR. BAUMGARTNER

None.

BUDGET & WATER, SEWER, AND GARBAGE – MS. MAY

Ms. May continued the discussion with the Village Board in reference to increasing the water and sewer rates in the Village. Ms. May stated that a 48.5% increase is simply not attainable. Mayor Peterson said that he is uncomfortable with that much of an increase, but indicated that the Village has to do something. Ms. May said that the Village needs to start budgeting for projects and bigger maintenance issues. Ms. May stated that base rates and usage rates are increasing and suggested that the Village designate funds to different areas within the budget. Ms. May added that residents are going to want to know what the increase is for and what it's going to be spent on. Mr. York shared his concern about the condition of the sewer plant and said that it's in really bad shape. Mr. York stated that the Village needs to start saving money now and let those funds accrue interest as well. Mr. York advised the Village Board that if there is a pocket where we can fill in a gap and try to save some money, then we need to do this. Mayor Peterson reiterated that he isn't comfortable with a 48.5% increase and that he also doesn't want to sell our utilities in the Village. Mayor Peterson stated that he wants the Village to remain in control and be able to make decisions. Mr. Danielson commented that the Village is currently charging 20% less than other communities for water and sewer. Mayor Peterson stated that he wants the Village Board to keep in mind that the Village is charging a water system maintenance fee (\$13/month) to its residents for the water improvements that were completed. Mr. Danielson stated that he would be comfortable with a 24% increase instead of a 48.5% increase, but that those funds would need to be properly allocated. Ms. May inquired if the base rates and usage rates for water and sewer could be split somehow on the utility bill. Mayor Peterson said that he could have Ms. Hughes check into this and come up with some numbers. Mr. Danielson commented that the sample numbers that the Village Board is looking at on the handouts are based off of 500 cubic feet of water usage and that many homes use more than this every month. Mr. Seever stated that he agreed with Mr. Danielson as far as being somewhere in the middle, but not implementing a 48.5% increase for the residents of the Village. Mayor Peterson said that the Village is going to have to make some tough decisions. Mr. Danielson stated that the longer the Village delays this, the harder it's going to be. Mr. Baumgartner commented that it's unfortunate that the sewer plant wasn't addressed sooner, but that we need to get this information out to the residents and educate them on what needs to be done. Ms. May suggested that the Village start with the increase at the new budget year (June 1st) and that we work on messaging and communication with residents in the meantime. Mayor Peterson stated that every year we will have to have a set increase so that Mr. Barber can plan accordingly in the budget. Mr. York wanted to make it clear that the Village Board has heard Mr. Barber's message in making sure the water is safe for our residents and that the Village Board does support him. Mayor Peterson said he would like to see what those numbers look like with a 24-25% increase in the water and sewer rates.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MR. DANIELSON

None.

BUILDINGS AND PARKS – MRS. HONKAMP

Motion by Mrs. Honkamp to approve the special events application for Yeti Fest to be held February 8th – 11th, second by Mr. Danielson. Roll call. All ayes. Motion approved 6-0.

STREETS AND WALKS – MR. SEEVER

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ACTION ON ITEMS ARISING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Mr. York, second by Mr. Seever, to pay bills in the amount of \$122,718.88. Roll call. All ayes.
Motion approved 6-0.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, motion by Mr. York, second by Mr. Seever, to adjourn at 7:42 pm. All ayes.
Motion approved 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Stewart
Village Clerk