

Village of Milledgeville  
County of Carroll  
State of Illinois

Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting held May 16, 2016

A Regular Board Meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall in Milledgeville. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Helms. Roll was Called and the following Trustees responded as "Here", Bill Stage, Gary Geirnaeirt, Gene Behrens, John Helms, Wayne Sprecher and Bryan Trotter.

Others Present: Karen Wirth, Ron Geary, Jr. and Darlene Adolph, Matt Hinrichs, Todd and Denise Ewers, Mark Wiersema, Greg Miller, Sandy Skinner, Mark Gravert, Jan Koett, Tammy, Jamie, Zack, Tyler Diehl, Andrea Jones, Nancy Nice, Ethan and Riley Horton, Jayci and Stephen Webster, Jennifer Geerts, Audrey Selman, Larry Spencer, Travis Hines, Deb Bailey, Jermaine Pigeo, Dean Hollewell, Jeff Hackbarth, Jim Haag and Dan Howorth.

MOTION was made by Stage, sec. by Trotter to approve the Minutes from the May 2, 2015 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried by omnibus vote (6-0).

MOTION was made by Stage, sec. by Geirnaeirt, to pay all current bills as presented. Motion carried (6-0) by omnibus vote.

The Treasurer's Report was next on the agenda. MOTION was made by Geirnaeirt, sec. by Trotter, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried (6-0) by omnibus vote.

There was no business from the floor.

Galen at this time apologized for going out of order on the agenda. Metropolitan Industries was present and wanted to show the Trustees and reporters a new communication system for the Village wells. They needed to do that before it was dark. At this time the Trustees and reporters went through the trailer.

Old Business: The Trustees, Galen and the reporters returned. Galen read a statement that he had at this time. "This is just one of many items being discussed by the Board tonight for the betterment of the community. Hopefully all items will receive equal press time by the media present tonight and not just sensationalize any one item." At this time Galen had Christy read the Ordinance #771 which will be discussed and possibly passed at this meeting. Christy read the Ordinance and Galen said the pro-chicken people will have 5 minutes as a group to state their side. After that the anti-chicken people will get 5 minutes as a group. He said we have already heard from the pro chicken people for approximately 45 minutes so he set his clock and asked everyone to be respectful of others opinions. The pro chicken people started with Mark Gravert from Ustick Township said he has friends in town and he has chickens in the country where he lives. He said they are not 100 feet from his home and they are quiet. He said roosters are not. He said some towns are allowing 12 chickens and in 30-40 years of raising them he hasn't had one disease. He said we are an agricultural based community. Tammy Diehl was next and said Haag has come and re-measured and she has the 100 feet needed for chickens. She said she received a letter earlier that said she needed to get rid of her chickens and she complied and went another route and got turkeys. She said she has had Jim's help through this. Riley Horton said the limit of 4 chickens won't work as they have to have a pecking order or they will hurt

each other. He said they need to be allowed 5. Mark Gravert said 6 were better. Tammy had pictures of sample coops again and gave them to the Board. Riley said they make as much noise as people talking and he feels they only need to be 50 feet from the neighbors. Travis Hines said they are willing to give some to get. He feels 50 feet and no roosters are good compromises on their part. Galen asked if Travis was going to get chickens and he said he would like them but he currently has some at his fathers' house so he has other options that some don't.

Galen then said the 5 minutes was up and the people who are against chickens were given 5 minutes to speak. Larry Spencer said chickens are filthy, dirty birds that do carry diseases. He looked on the CDC website and there are some disease strains that people have died from. He said will our Village be the one to get this disease? Todd Ewers was present and said that this is a waste of the Village's time and resources. He said maybe 1% of the population wants the birds and he thinks this needs to be done. Greg Miller said this Board tries to do what's best for the Village and he thinks we need to forget chickens. Matt Hinrichs stated simply he doesn't want chickens in the Village. Todd said this would be opening a door we can't close. Denise Ewers said she respects the people's wish to have birds but one or two families want them and the rest of the town is opposed. There was still time left but the anti-chicken people were done. Travis Hines gave the Board a list of signatures from people not opposed to having chickens.

Galen said at this time the Trustees will weigh in. Galen said he has been in many towns lately and everyone he has asked thinks this shouldn't be an issue. Chickens should not be allowed in town. He read an article from Mayo Clinic about a disease called histoplasmosis that is spread from chicken feces and can be deadly. John Helms he has talked to people and tries to do what residents want. He has been told don't let this happen. He said he wants to have a clear mind and it's not fair to the people who don't want them. Gene Behrens has asked at many businesses in town to see what people are saying and the majority does not want chickens allowed. Trotter said he has tried to keep an open mind but everyone he's talked to doesn't want them. Geirnaeirt said he feels the same way and said we should be concerned with other items. Sprecher said no chickens. Stage said he has talked to many people and two want to allow them. He said he thinks we need to make the distance 1000 feet and that way no one can have them and it will done. MOTION was made by Stage, sec. by Geirnaeirt to change the area to 1000 feet for Ordinance #771. A Roll Call vote was taken and passed (6-0).

Mark Wiersema was present to discuss garbage pick-up in town. Galen said he had Christy call neighboring towns and they are getting charged more for garbage, even if we have to raise it for recycling. He said since we know this he doesn't see the need to put it out for bid. He wondered what the Trustees thought. They agreed. Galen said since we have no formal contract tonight he wondered if Mark could get one written up and bring it to the next meeting and we will go over it and approve it in three weeks. Mark said he would like a three year contract and he would supply a 30 yard dumpster for recycling. He said he could leave it at \$9.00 per month for pick-up for 1 year and then see what the landfill prices do. In one year we could negotiate the price. Mark had said he would pick up the recycling for 2 months and dispose of it at the recycling center in Rockford at no cost to the Village. Galen said we will then know how often we have to dump it and will know what price we will need to charge the residents on the water, sewer, garbage bills. Stage said he would like to add construction refuse to the pick-up list. He wondered if they would pick up one 50 pound can per household per week. Mark didn't see a problem with that if the residents don't abuse the policy. Mark said the Village just had the town clean-up day and they gathered 12 ton of waste. Average for the Village is 7-8 ton. Galen asked if they would pick-up a couple of sheets of drywall and he said if they were cut to where the guys could handle it. He asked about carpet cut to where they could handle it and Mark said yes. Galen informed him that he had put some out before and it wasn't picked up.

Stage said he has always had anything he put out get picked up. Mark said he would write up a contract and get with Galen to go over the fine points before the next Board meeting. He said Wiersema Waste appreciates the Village doing this very much! Greg asked if we could advertise what we can recycle in the bin and Mark said it would be ideal if only residents used the bin. Stage wondered if there was room by the water tower for the bin so it would be readily available to all residents. Mark said we will have to build some sort of ramp/walkway so people can get to the lids they will need to open to place the recycling in the bin.

The Ordinance book was next and the Trustees went over the first and second chapters. The first was the Village Presidents duties and job description and the second was the Trustees. Everyone thought those were fine and the meeting progressed.

The water testing question was next on the agenda. Jeff said Dixon is done at the end of June and He spoke to another water superintendent and he said they use a company from Peru, IL. called Test Inc. They will pick up and test the samples and a few towns around us do use them. Stage asked if Lyons was still an option and Jeff said he priced one test we get done and Lyons charges \$22.00 while Test Inc. will charge \$12.00 for the same test. Stage asked if had talked to Dixon about just raising their prices and Jeff said that the radio said they would have to raise their prices 7 times in order to just break even. Jeff said we can use Dixon through June and he will do more research on prices at different labs so we can make an informed decision.

The budget was next. Christy said the price of insurance may be a little higher as one of the employees got married and may be added onto the policy. MOTION was made by Sprecher, sec. by Geirnaeirt, to approve the budget. Motion carried (6-0) by Roll Call vote.

New Business: Travis Hines was at a previous meeting and said his grandmother has asthma and he wondered if we could ban burning leaves. Galen said she is not the only one who has health problems that burning leaves makes worse. Helms said some people don't have enough cans to set out at the curb for pick-up and Stage said some people can't take all their leaves to the burn pile as they have no truck to haul it in. Travis was present and said his 88 year old grandmother rakes all her leaves and puts them in 6 V-Cans that she bought and said others can do the same. Stage said people could mulch them as that is good for the ground but they didn't think they could demand people do it. Travis left the meeting at this point but the Board continued to discuss it and told Christy to put the information in the Milledgeville Messenger and around town about curb-side pick -up and mulching. Maybe people would choose one of those options instead next fall.

The amount the Village is paying back to themselves was next on the agenda. We are currently reimbursing the water and sewer fund \$500.00 each month. Galen wondered if, because we are done saving for a police car, if we could now pay \$1000.00 each month and get this paid back sooner. The Board decided to do that and re-evaluate the payback amount at the end of the year.

Metropolitan Industries was here with a demonstration of the well communication system they have. The Trustees went to go through the demo with the company. The Trustees came back and asked Jeff what he thought. Jeff said there were two options but he feels, of the two, the cheaper of the two is better for the Village at this time. MOTION was made by Stage, sec. by Geirnaeirt, to approve the purchase of the system at the cost of \$13,765.00. Motion carried (6-0) by Roll Call vote.

The next item was a CD from the TIF account. The CD is worth \$52,086.30 and we need to decide what to do. If we want we can cash it in or renew it for another year. The bank has a special going at 1% interest for one year. MOTION was made by Geirnaeirt, sec. by Behrens, to renew at the 1% for 1 year. Motion carried (6-0) by Roll Call vote.

The last item under new business was a Willett Hofmann, not to exceed contract. Galen said they gave a not to exceed contract of \$7,000.00 for the Main Ave. water line project. MOTION was made by Stage, sec. by Geirnaeirt to accept the contract. Motion carried (6-0) by Roll Call vote.

Committee Reports: Gary Geirnaeirt said the budget is approved and there was nothing else at this time.

John Helms had nothing at this time except to say he's glad we started working on the Ordinances. Stage said the guys are working on water lines and mowing. He said he heard from a resident who would like some trees planted as she had some taken down last year. Bill said we got some nice ones from Brad Gallentine last time and wondered about doing that again. He also said we're getting curb work done on 1<sup>st</sup> Street also.

Any Other Business: Stage said there are a few cars around town that don't have plates or have been sitting idle for a few months. He would like them up to code.

With No Further Business, MOTION was made by Sprecher, sec. by Stage, to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved Minutes Taken By  
Christine A. Ottens, Village Clerk