

**VILLAGE OF COAL VALLEY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY March 2, 2016**

**Held March 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm, in the Board Chambers in Village Hall,
Coal Valley, Illinois**

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Village Board was called to order at 6:00 pm by Village President Emil Maslanka.

2. Roll Call

Present: Dick Stone, Dale Keppy, Mike Bartels, Dave Timmons, Bruce Crowe,
Kathy Cornish

Absent:

Establishment of a quorum.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Staff present at the meeting were: Stephen Mullen – Director of Water and Sanitary Sewer, Penny Woods – Assistant Village Administrator, Amber Dennis – Village Clerk and Jack Chick - Chief of Police.

4. Reading and Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Kathy Cornish to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2016, Village Board meeting. Mike Bartels seconded, all ayes motion was carried.

5. Public Presentation/ Recognition and/or Public Comments

Scott Parsons approached the board regarding Coal Valley Days. Mr. Parsons has scheduled the use of the First Street Park on Thursday July 7th- 9th to host Valley Days. Mr. Parsons stated that he plans to have a carnival, band, parade, car show, food vendors, beer garden and craft fair. Mr. Parsons asked to use the village water and electricity and he will supply all paper supplies. Mr. Parsons is hoping to make a profit from the function and would like to donate \$5000 to the Village if it succeeds. Chief Chick asked that Mr. Parsons get in contact with him regarding police presence at the parade and the festival. The Board had no problem with his request.

Brian Peterson spoke to the board asking them to prioritize the infrastructure projects to complete the essential projects to control the cost of the water rates for the residents. Mr. Peterson stated that the interest rate for the infrastructure loan should not be the only factor in pursuing the projects.

Brooke Hendrickx spoke to the board stating that the water rate increase concerns her and she feels that some improvements need to be made, but would like the board members to prioritize them as well. Mrs. Hendrickx stated that the potential increases are as high as two months of childcare or a family dinner out.

Don Pearson spoke to the board regarding Village cleanliness. Mr. Pearson stated that when the trash collectors dump the garbage it blows out of the cans all over the neighborhoods. He asked that the Village write a letter to Allied Waste, asking them to pick up the loose trash that does not make it into the dumpster when they are out. Mr. Pearson also suggested implementing a volunteer spring and fall clean-up day.

6. Reports from the President and Other Officers (on matters not otherwise appearing on the Agenda)

- A. President – Mayor Maslanka stated that the owner of the Jack & Jill property received a property maintenance violation letter and has to make repairs by March 17, 2016 or they will be fined on a daily basis.

Mayor Maslanka said that he would like to get a for sale sign put at the old Nazarene church property. Bruce Crowe stated that the village needs to get three bids for the signage work.

- B. Trustees – no comment

- C. Staff – Chief Jack Chick stated that in preparation for the retirement of Sandy Standefer; Administrative Assistant, he has started to train Amber Dennis; Village Clerk to take that position in a part time status. Chief Chick asked the Board to agree to a few part time benefits. The Board stated that they would like to see it in the official personnel handbook. Chief Chick said that he would bring it back next meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. 2016-2017 Draft Water Rates –

Penny Woods stated that she had drafted two water rate schedules. The first option showed a 4.3% (\$.50) increase for residential service fee and 7.4% (\$1.00) increase for water and sewer usage and a \$20 infrastructure fee. The second option had no residential increases, but the \$20.00 infrastructure fee. Mike Bartels stated that the EPA loan has not been approved yet and is hesitant to make any action on the increase. Mayor Maslanka stated that a decision needs to be made in order to finalize the budget. Dick Stone looked at the rates and looked at the financial needs of the Village and stated that the past three years there have been \$500,000 spent on capital improvement projects. If those projects are not done, then those expenditures won't create such a large shortfall in the deficit. Dale Keppy stated that every year for the last three years the Village has fallen under budget. Mr. Keppy thinks that the financial condition of the water department needs more revenue now, and would like to see a \$10.00 infrastructure fee to help with shortfalls in the department. He also supports the \$1.00 increase/1000 gallons. Mr. Keppy would also support an automatic yearly increase for the sewage rates. Mike Bartels stated that, in previous meetings, it was decided that \$2.50/ 1000 gallons would bring the water department out of the deficit. Bruce Crowe asked if all the Trustees would help get the water fund fixed and wait until the EPA loan amount is approved and then vote on that. Mrs. Woods stated that if no projects were completed in the next budget and with no rate increase the water fund will not have a deficit, but there will be no reserve if something were to break.

Mike Bartels stated that he supports the \$2.50/1000 gallons increase to get the water account out of the deficit. Mayor Maslanka stated that, depending on the projects that need to be done, an infrastructure fee will eventually need to be considered. Dale Keppy stated that he supports the \$1.00/1000 gallons usage increase for water and sewer. Mr. Keppy made a motion to charge a \$10.00 reserve fee and accept the rate increase of \$14.50/1000 gallons for April 1, 2016. Motion denied due to no second. Dick Stone made a motion to accept the rate increase of 4.3% for residential connection fee and 7.4% for residential usage minus any infrastructure fees. Bruce Crowe seconded, roll call: Stone; aye, Keppy; nay, Bartels; nay, Timmons; aye, Crowe; aye, Cornish; aye. Motion Carried.

8. New Business

A. Fiber Optic Line Agreement – Geneseo Communications–

Matt Storm with Geneseo Communications came to the Board to request the Village to wave the \$1.50/foot per year to run a fiber optic internet line from Route 6 to Bicentennial Elementary School. Mr. Storm would like to bring the fiber optic line to the Village, the Library and to the residents if possible. Mr. Storm stated that they would pay a one-time permit like they do for the other towns they service. They will offer residential service at \$39.99/month. Geneseo Communications would offer the Village internet service at \$300-\$600/month. Mr. Storm stated that all the fiber optic line would be in the ground. The advantage of the fiber optic line is the internet speed. Geneseo Communication is servicing Bettendorf, Davenport, Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, Silvis and Milan. Matt Storm stated that Geneseo Communications will have the line ran to the school by July 1, 2016. Bruce Crowe stated that the water deficit has been in discussion for hours to save the residents money, and he does not feel that the ordinance should be waved to save a business from paying. Chief Chick stated that the Police Department would need the fiber optic line for body cameras in the future. Bruce Crowe made a motion to stay with the current ordinance of \$1.50/foot per year up to Bicentennial Elementary School. Kathy Cornish seconded, roll call: Stone; aye, Keppy; nay, Bartels; aye, Timmons; aye, Crowe; aye, Cornish; aye. Motion Carried.

B. New Police Officer

Chief Jack Chick Introduced Kyle Irby as the new police officer that will start March 14, 2016. Mr. Irby is currently working part-time for City of Hampton, Galva and Henry County. There will be a ceremony for Mr. Irby Monday March 14, 2016 at 8:00 am. Kathy Cornish made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Irby. Bruce Crowe seconded, roll call: Stone; aye, Keppy; aye, Bartels; aye, Timmons; aye, Crowe; aye, Cornish; aye. Motion Carried.

C. Generators for Lift Stations

Stephen Mullen stated that he spoke with a contractor he has regarding purchasing generators for the lift stations in the future. The first lift station that he would like to put money in the budget for is lift station #1 for \$39,775.00. Mr. Mullen stated that he would like to spread all five generator purchases over the next 8-10 years.

D. 1st Reading Amending Building Regulations Ordinance

Penny Woods stated that she needs to change the building regulations ordinance to calendar year to mirror the rest of the ordinances. Mrs. Woods will bring that back to the table for a second reading next meeting.

E. Niabi Zoo

Mayor Maslanka stated that he met with Steve Ballard and Jeff Craver regarding annexing the Zoo into the Village. Mayor Maslanka stated that there would be advantages of paying Village water rates for the zoo. Mayor Maslanka said that there is an advantage to the Village to have Niabi Zoo in the Village. Niabi Zoo would also have an advantage of police protection from the Village. Drue Mielke stated that the zoo needs the Village water for the animals well being. Mr. Mielke said that surrounding residences would also be able to annex into the Village. Mr. Mielke explained that the zoo owns three parcels that they would annex in once they decide.

F. Police Reports

Chief Jack Chick stated that the month of February was pretty quiet

G. Public Works Reports

Stephen Mullen stated that Ryan Hamerlinck rented a chipper to cut back trees and brush from the roadways. Mr. Hamerlinck is also in the process of getting bids for renting equipment to reseal cracks in the roads.

H. Payment of the Bills

Mayor Maslanka stated that the February bills that were paid was for \$48,670.22, and most were for insurance and energy costs. Penny Woods stated that the bill for Development Strategies was split and partially paid with TIF funds. Dick Stone asked if there is a cost benefit to utilize MUNICES. Mayor Maslanka stated that the bill that is in the packet was from an old bill, and now MUNICES is cost effective after the rates were increased. Mike Bartels made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Dick Stone seconded; roll call: Stone, aye; Keppy; aye, Bartels, aye; Timmons; aye, Crowe; aye, Cornish; aye. Motion passed

I. Executive Session

Dick Stone made a motion to go into executive session. Kathy Cornish seconded; roll call: Stone, aye; Keppy; aye, Bartels, aye; Timmons; aye, Crowe; aye, Cornish; aye. Motion passed

Dave Timmons made a motion to exit the executive session. Mike Bartels seconded; Stone, aye; Keppy; aye, Bartels, aye; Timmons; aye, Crowe; aye, Cornish; aye. Motion passed

A motion was made by Kathy Cornish to approve a severance agreement and release, between the Village and Allen May, as presented by Emil Maslanka; Village President, and to authorize the Village President to take all steps necessary to implement the agreement. Dick Stone seconded, roll call: Stone, aye; Keppy; aye, Bartels, aye; Timmons; aye, Crowe; aye, Cornish; aye. Motion carried.

9. Adjournment

Dick Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Cornish seconded, all ayes, motion was carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Dennis
Village Clerk