

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
21801 TORRENCE AVENUE, SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS
November 7, 2023, 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

On Roll Call

Present: Trustees: Trustee Burns, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams

Absent: Trustee Carter with notice

3. DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Trustee Debbie Williams introduced
 - ServLine Warranties Proposal and the speaker, Christopher Rebar who provided a virtual presentation on the warranty program to offer residents to protect their water lines. Several options were discussed based upon the services desired and their costs. Payment would be included in residents' water bills.
 - Mayor Burgess questioned the billing and the eligibility requirements for residents, and how would residents be billed. Residents file a claim, the contractor would be paid, and the payment would be made to the Village. He asked who would monitor payments? The company would assist with setup and administrative services up to twenty hours. There would be no agreement neither between the company and the Village
 - Trustee Williams clarified that the notice would be on the bill and residents must opt out. Only one mailing, but asked how new residents would be informed? Trustee Sapp asked about insurance for the water meters. Clarification was provided that the presentation costs were out of alignment. The company promised to send a corrected document. No determination for proceeding was made.
- Mr. Timothy Williams Mayor Burgess introduced Cook County Commissioner, 6th District Donna Miller who introduced the intended program and told why Sauk Village was selected for the program to be discussed. Chief Justice Tim Evans was introduced and shared the program's worth and his hopefulness that the court could be up and running by the end of December.

- Cook County Restorative Justice Community Court - Office of the Chief Judge - Margaret Kulujian provided a PowerPoint presentation of the operations of the proposed court how it would operate, where it would be housed and the intended participants.

Trustee Burns asked many questions about the program including how it could connect with colleges to provide incentives This item would proceed to the Board Meeting providing all elements are provided.

The meeting was recessed at 8:35 to entertain executive privileges.

The Meeting reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

- A Resolution Approving an Economic Development Consulting Proposal and Authorizing the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement by and Between the Village of Sauk Village and Southland Development Authority (SDA) was discussed by a team of individuals representing the company. The plan to utilize the service projected to cost less than what the former Community Director was paid would cost the Village \$55,000 annually to be paid quarterly for \$13,500 for a team to assist with community development according to the agreement that was not presented at the time of the presentation. This item would be on the Board meeting agenda pending the development of a revised resolution and the agreement.
- Municipal Energy Efficiency Evaluation and Solar Power for All - Michael Gruener provided an overview of program offerings with the intent of the audit for evaluating entities systems. Light, light bulbs, switches, toilets, etc. There are grants that can provide up to 95% of the costs. The other areas to consider are power and energy costs that has incentives if utilized. They sought to appeal to the Village to start now to work with them to save on energy costs that would be much less than what is paid to ComEd. The efficiency of the Village systems would be the first step through the free audit, and then the determination required of the solar fields desired that would decrease the Village's energy costs. Questions from Trustees were entertained, with examples of costs to be incurred based upon options selected.
Mr. Williams stated that Board action was not required as there are no funds attached to the completion of the audit.
- An Ordinance Amending and Adopting Building and Technical Codes was not presented.
- A Resolution Denying a Petition For disconnection from Sauk Village For 225 Rush Street and 2001 Lincoln Highway Pin No. 32-24-400-136-0000. Mayor Burgess introduced this topic in order that it could go before the Board. Mr. T. Williams provided the overview that outlines the previously discussed proposal and that the Board's intent towards the proposal. He highlighted the reasons that the proposal was not feasible. This item will proceed to the Board agenda for final determination.

The producer (Board Attorney) of the ordinance was asked to be included on the cover page of the resolution.

- Mayor Derrick Burgess
 - The Illinois Funds Account Change of Information. Mayor Burgess discussed the topic that would give him the right and the authority to receive funds from the state, county and other taxing avenues, so that the funds could be extracted. He stated that it would be akin to him and the Clerk being signees on checks. He then announced that there is close to one million dollars in the fund that has not been utilized as the document has not been updated with a new signee.

Extensive discussion, concerns and comments ensued. When asked who the original signers were, the Mayor did not know, but presumed that it was the Finance Director and Treasurer. Trustees asked for copies of the original document that have been previously signed. They requested a back-up signee in case of an emergency. Mayor Burgess stated that if he was the signee, he could direct others to request funds distribution as needed.

After which, Mr. T. Williams was asked to provide greater details on the funds. The actual title, (Trader) was brought forth. Trustees asked that a second person be named to include someone other than interim staff. The Clerk, the signee on checks was suggested. Mr. T. Williams reiterated that the Clerk or no others than those in the Finance Department could be listed on the document as those authorized to sign for the funds. He stated that it was an administrative task that did not require the Board's approval on day-to-day concerns such as this and that the remaining form would be completed as needed.

This item will proceed to the Board Meeting for consideration of adoption

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- K. Borens spoke of her experience with Restorative Justice and the positive impact of the program. Yet, she appealed to the Board to not rush into the implementation and to expend more time with its development. She volunteered to serve
- L. Sapp spoke of the weapons present at the Halloween party and recounted incidents and food safety issues that took place
- D. Smith reaffirmed that the incident previously commented on and shared that one person struck the woman in question. The camera's lack of functioning was questioned
- J. Burns focused on the weapons, failed cameras and Requested that the Clerk's name be included on the form. Where is the draft for the audits not produced, no budget, the funds that are missing and the lack of investigation.
- W Bares, spoke of the circus that is taking place in light of everyone's concern for children's safety

- Mayor Burgess' Comments
 - The Restorative Justice must get started. The building in question must be . He appreciated the comments and anyone else willing to serve.
 - The children had a ball at the party. He did not see any of the incidents as commented upon. He stated that the officers should have had on security cameras that will be uncovered upon investigation. He reported on the calls for concern for the second party as the causative factor for cancelling the second party

5. GENERAL COMMENTS BY TRUSTEES & MAYOR

- Trustee Sapp had no comment
- Trustee Burns commented on the need for testing of water from a certified staff. Mayor Burgess stated that there is an individual who can provide testing, and questions should be asked in his office; Commented on the second party and asked about the calls made giving warnings; committee members who bring in weapons should be banned; announced the meeting on November 17th
- Trustee Coleman spoke about the individual who Allegedly was violent at the party and at recent meetings. He spoke to the Mayor's statement that he wanted absolute authority, and how it has caused a decline. He shared examples of absolute authority, i.e., staff obstructing Trustee's ability to gain documents needed, police officer's reluctance to allow residents to file claims, criminals bringing weapons to a children's party and unrighteous leadership
- Trustee Williams stated that actions that she heard about the party must be corrected. A member of the police department should be on site at every party. Uncanniness of contemplating bringing Restorative Justice to the Village while witnessing the actions as was done that evening. She commented on another's Facebook page for a "real Sauk Talk."
- Trustee Johnson reaffirmed that there would be another Sauk Talk. She spoke of the incidents from the party. She stated that the children were never in harm's way, there were no guns, no weapons. She asked that individuals communicate with her personally if situations were problematic and not on the boardroom floor.
- Mayor Burgess mentioned the Trustee comments that were accusatory and condemning and the need to have decorum when addressing each other

6. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

- Mayor Burgess asked for a Motion to Recess to Closed Session to Review Executive Board Minutes at 11:04 p.m. Trustee Williams moved, and Trustee Coleman seconded

On Roll Call

Present: Trustees: Trustee Burns, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp, and Williams

Absent: Trustee Carter

- A Motion to Reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Whole meeting Trustee moved and Trustee seconded at 11:40 p.m.
On roll call, in attendance were Trustees Burns, Coleman, Johnson, Sapp and Williams

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by common consent at 11:41 p.m.