

VILLAGE OF TOLONO, ILLINOIS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

November 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were President Murphy, Trustee Buffo, Trustee Dalton, Trustee Perry, Trustee Jack Haluzak, Trustee Robbins, Trustee Hayden, and Trustee Stuber. Absent was Clerk Dalton. Minutes were taken by Attorney Marc Miller.

President Murphy led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Stuber led those present in a voluntary invocation.

President Murphy then opened the floor to public comment. Darlene Schweighart appeared on behalf of Tolono Fun Days and requested funding for fireworks for next year. She also explained that they are short on volunteers due to volunteer burn-out. Their Board's next meeting is on November 18, 2021 at 6:30 at the Police Station and is usually held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. They invited Village Board members to attend.

Engineer Larry Johnson gave an update on the work at the sewer plant. They have taken some samples. Engineers will be on the site Thursday and Friday. He is expecting the EPA to issue the new discharge permit soon. It would be effective 12.1.2021. He reviewed some of the loan document information for the sewer plant reminding the Board that applying for the loan does not obligate the Village to take it.

Chief Levingston gave a brief update on the Police Department. The County is researching some issues relating to animal control and is supposed to get back to him.

The Board discussed some of the bills on the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Buffo motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. There was a second by Trustee Robbins. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Buffo-Yes, Trustee Perry-Yes, Trustee Haluzak-Yes, Trustee Robbins-Yes, Trustee Hayden-Yes, and Trustee Stuber-Yes. The motion carried.

Trustee Buffo updated the Board about a Junior Trustee Program. She has taken Board comments and will eventually come back with a recommended program.

There was discussion by the Board about a proposal from Donahue to reduce its outstanding bill by 10%. There was not a consensus by the Board supporting that level of discount.

The Board discussed sending USIC locating services a letter. There is a draft for Attorney Miller to review.

Trustee Haluzak motioned to approve a contract with the County to locate a ballot box in the Village. Trustee Buffo asked if the agreement would allow for relocating it if the Village wanted to do something at that location. Trustee Haluzak withdrew the motion. There was consensus to review the contract and give the matter more consideration.

There was consensus that a clean-up day be held in April of 2022.

The Board held its hearing for its 2021-2022 Tax Levy. Trustee Perry motioned to approve Ordinance No. 2021-O-18 the Tax Levy Ordinance for 2021-2022 as presented. There was a second by Trustee Hayden. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Buffo-Yes, Trustee Perry-Yes, Trustee Haluzak-Yes, Trustee Robbins-Yes, Trustee Hayden-Yes, and Trustee Stuber-Yes. The motion carried.

The Board then discussed the status of the Park District. A Trustee from the Park Board, Matt McCormick, appeared. He has been on the Board for about a decade. He said it is his opinion that they are understaffed and lack the resources to manage the District. He is of the opinion that the District should become part of the Village. He feels that for the most part the programs are good but that it is a real challenge to manage and find volunteers. Scott Remole, also from the Park Board, emphasized that the Village deserves good parks. The Park Board is a volunteer Board. A concern of the merger is that Park Districts qualify for grants that the Village would not qualify for. A compromise would be for an intergovernmental for the Village to manage the parks for the District. They anticipate a grant coming in to do work on West Side Park. They have about \$56,000.00 of annual income with \$300,000.00 in the bank dedicated to matching the anticipated grant. They believe the cash was derived from the issuance of a bond.

There was interest in having the Village handle the management and the Park Board focusing on programming. Park Board members proposed to attend Village Board meetings on a monthly basis while the parties move forward. Engineer Larry Johnson explained that if the District was to merge with the Village that the application process for the grant would likely shift to the Village but the Village's assets would be considered so that the Park District's stand alone application would probably be more successful. The timing on the grant announcement should be inside the next two months.

The Board received five bucket truck bids:

Quartuch: \$855.00

Block: \$1,005.00

Moses: \$1,250.00

Walker: \$4,250.47

Grinns: \$8,650.25

There was a motion by Trustee Stuber to accept the high bid of \$8,650.25 but authorize the President to go to back up bidders if winning bidder doesn't respond in a reasonable amount of time. There was a second by Trustee Hayden. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Buffo-Yes, Trustee Perry-Yes, Trustee Haluzak-Yes, Trustee Robbins-Yes, Trustee Hayden-Yes, and Trustee Stuber-Yes. The motion carried.

The bid for 105 E. Daggy was opened. It was from Michael McCleary for \$25,100.00. There was a motion by Trustee Stuber to direct the Village attorney to prepare a customary sales contract for approval by the Board at the next meeting. There was a second by Trustee Perry. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Buffo-Yes, Trustee Perry-Yes, Trustee Haluzak-Yes, Trustee Robbins-Yes, Trustee Hayden-Yes, and Trustee Stuber-Yes. The motion carried.

It was noted that the Village received an offer for the Benham property from the Fisher family. There was consensus to put it on the next agenda and approve the offer.

Trustee Robbins brought up putting in new sidewalks near Rocket Road. There was consensus to put together a sidewalk plan that could be ready to submit for grants as they become available.

There was a motion by Trustee Stuber to enter into Executive Session for the limited purpose of discussing the hiring, performance, compensation, and/or employment of one or more Village employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)) and the sale of real property pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(6). There was a second by Trustee Buffo. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Buffo-Yes, Trustee Perry-Yes, Trustee Haluzak-Yes, Trustee Robbins-Yes, Trustee Hayden-Yes, and Trustee Stuber-Yes. The motion carried. Everyone took a 5 minute break. The Board entered in Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 8:20 p.m.

There was a motion by Trustee Robbins to adjourn. There was a second by Trustee Stuber. All present voted yes. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.