

**Village of Mt. Auburn**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**November 7, 2023**

The Village Board met in regular session, Mayor Mike Whitehead presiding. The meeting was preceding to the Public Hearing that was held at 6:45.

At this time Mayor Whitehead told the board that he spoke with the construction outfit working in town and they were going to stop the new line at the parking lot at ADM, he felt that the whole line should be replaced, also felt that 3 fire hydrants needed to be added to the bid. The board looked at a handout from Burdick to do the work and their bid is 30,500.00. A question was asked on where the hydrants were going to be placed and one will be on Brandt's property, one on Center St. and one on Arch Street. He told the board that he wanted to have the hydrant in the firehouse side but it would have been more expensive to bore out under the road.

A motion was made by Trustees Don Henderson and seconded by Scott Vincent to accept the Water Change Order with the additional 19,700.00. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-absent, Bette Rankins-yes, Bridget Willard-yes, Scott Vincent-yes, and Don Henderson-yes

A motion was made by Trustees Don Henderson and seconded by Scott Vincent to accept the contractor's application for Payment #1. Vote: Trustees Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-absent, Bette Rankins-yes, Bridget Willard-yes, Scott Vincent-yes, and Don Henderson-yes

Mayor Whitehead gave the board an email that he had written to Adam Mathias asking if he had any recommendations on an accounting firm. Adam told him that there was a larger accounting firm in Springfield that might have the time to do an audit. He really didn't know anyone else and the price will be 2 to 3 times higher than his bid was. Adam will contact him if this firm is interested.

Mayor Whitehead told the board that he had 6 hours on the new Kubota and 3 hours on the pull behind. He also told the board that the old Kubota had some bolts break off. Trustee Willard ask if it will be expensive to fix it to sell. Mayor Whitehead told the board that he would like to keep the old Kubota to mow the ditches and save the wear and tear off the new mower.

Mayor Whitehead told the board that he had only received one resume and one email in regards to the new employee. He told the board it has been put on Harristown, Stonington, Blue Mound, and Tri City social sites.

The board then discussed the Covid money grant money. Mayor Whitehead told the board he was waiting to see the price to close the old well and clean the water tower.

Insurance- Mayor Whitehead told the board that the bill is in the bills this month.

Ordinance- Mayor Whitehead told the board that he had sent a certified letter to the citizen that has been parking his semi on the side of the street. Trustee Rankins asks about the letter written by the attorney, that allowed the committee to send out ordinance violations with all the board members names on it. This was sent out along with a copy of the ordinance that they are violating. Mayor Whitehead was unaware of this letter.

Parks-Treasurer Saulsberry told the board that they would be decorating for Festival of Lights again this year after Thanksgiving. At this time the park will be closed once the lights are up. They then discussed the port-a-potty at park I and Park II. It was brought up that the potty at Park I was used by several kids when they get off the bus. Treasurer Saulsberry will call and have the port-a-potty removed from park II and check about the weather in Park I and have it moved to a different location if it can be out in the weather.

The board then discussed the letter from United Regional Water Cooperative. It seems that they will be raising the rates 8% as of February 2024. Attorney Atteberry told the board once again that they should ask for an audit before they accept any rate increase. The board told him to go ahead and ask for the audit. Mayor Whitehead told the board he felt they should be thinking about increasing water rates with this increase. Trustee Vincent told the board that he didn't want to pass an increase to the citizens unless it had to be done. At the present time the rate with the add on construction cost is 29.37.

The board looked at a spreadsheet that Mayor Whitehead had made pertaining to past due bills. Clerk Hamell ask the attorney if the two bills that was given to him last month could be written off, these have been on the past due for as long as I have been here and one of the properties have been sold several times. The Attorney agreed that it could be written off but the other one he thought had several liens on it. Trustee Rankins asks how the village can recoup the money with liens if the property doesn't have a title check done. She told the board that if you take them to small claims court they have to pay. Attorney Atteberry told her that they would still have the attorney fees. Trustee Rankins told the board that she didn't use an attorney, she took them to court herself.

Community Building-Don Henderson told the board that the community building fund has run out of money and wanted to know if the board would transfer money from the general fund to keep from paying a monthly fee. It was decided that the Community Building Committee will meet to go over the contract and fees being charged. Since this isn't on the agenda the board will ratify this request next month. It was decided to move 1,000.00. The Community Building Committee will meet on November 13,2023 at 7:00. @ the community building.

A motion was made by Trustees Scott Vincent and seconded by Bridget Willard to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of October. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-absent, Bette Rankins-yes, Bridget Willard-yes, Scott Vincent-yes, and Don Henderson-yes

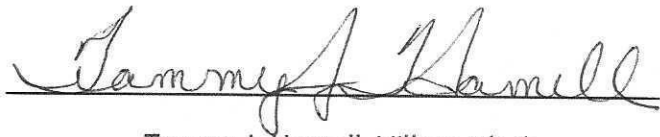
A motion was made by Trustees Bette Rankins and seconded by Bridget Willard to pay all bills for the month of October. Vote: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-absent, Bette Rankins-yes, Bridget Willard-yes, Scott Vincent-yes, and Don Henderson-yes

A motion was made by Trustees Bridget Willard and seconded by Bette Rankins to accept the minutes of the regular board meeting from October. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-absent, Bette Rankins-yes, Bridget Willard-yes, Scott Vincent-abstain Don Henderson-abstain, Mike Whitehead-yes

The next regular meeting will be held on December 5, 2023

A motion was made by Trustees Scott Vincent and seconded by Don Henderson to adjourn.

All in favor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy J. Hamell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tammy J. Hamell, Village Clerk