**Village Board of Mt. Auburn**

**Regular Meeting**

**June 1, 2021**

The Village Board of Mt. Auburn met in regular session Mayor Mike Whitehead presiding. The meeting was brought to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Mike Whitehead, Trustees; Brenda Patton, Sandy Gooder, Rick Clayton, Denise Carey, and Scott Vincent. Village Clerk Tammy Hamell and Treasurer Charlene Saulberry were also present.

Also Present: Myrna Whitehead, Mona Dunn, Buck Saulsberry, Vicki Simmons, Dixie Vincent, Hallie and Amanda Rankins, and Reporter Rachael LeBeane.

Lee Beckman of Milano and Grunloh was present. They discussed the new EPA requirement for all towns participating in the water co-op. They are asking that 6 locations in town that have copper pipes have 4 ft of pipe to be taken down to the water plant to watch for 4 months. After that time, all towns will take their pipes to Illiopolis for another four month corrosion test. This will come at a cost of 120,000 to be split between the towns involved. This will be added to the 40 year USDA loan. Trustee Vincent volunteered to give pipe for the testing. Others that were discussed were: The village hall, the water plant, possibly the community building and maybe the school. One more location would be needed if these are willing to participate.

Lee also stated that the water project was getting started. The informational meeting brought up concerns for Arch St. to Elm St. since they are planning on boring instead of a full dig. The members were concerned about running into old drain pipes since they were put in many years ago and are unmarked. The board ask about who would pay for any repairs and Lee said this was a gray area. He did find out the prices for both. Boring the road would be 58.00 per ft. Digging would be 26.75. The backfill would be dirt instead of sand. There will be 700 ft to be done on Arch St. The price for trenching would be 26.75. It was also decided to start the work at the park.

A motion was made by Trustee Sandy Gooder and seconded by Brenda Patton to table any decisions of changes until a later date. Vote: Brenda Patton-yes, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Denise Carey-yes, and Scott Vincent-yes. Motion carried

The board discussed that we will have a representative sitting on the board of the Regional Water Cooperative. It was decided that Mayor Mike Whitehead should be the representative. They also mentioned that two people could represent, although only one has a vote.

EJ Water will lease the water tower. They think this should be completed by end of year or the first of next year. It was also discussed that Menard Electric wants to run the power, although since 1940 Ameren has supplied power to the village.

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The board discussed the 12,600 retaining wall grant. The village discussed how much the price of steel and concrete has been going up. The village will pay the 45% remaining. Lee will be holding a letting for bids with the lowest bid winning.

**Guests Speak:**

Amanda Rankins requested being on the agenda for next month for liquor license and road closings for the picnic. Dixie Vincent also told the board that they always use the flags from the hall for the color guard for the first night of the picnic.

Vicki Simmons told the board that the potholes on South Broad needs repaired.

**Finance:** Trustee Vincent told the board that he would like to get together with the finance committee and discuss finances at a later date. Mayor Whitehead told the board that the audit has been moved to July since the tax date was moved back this year.

**Ordinances:** It was reported that the house on Arch Street that needed cleaned up, has filled a new dumpster and yard has been mowed.

It was asked if the town would be spraying for mosquitoes this year. It was discussed that the sprayer is not in working order. Rick will get a hold of Sky to get bids for a new sprayer.

**Parks:** The eagle has been moved to the village garage but is in very poor shape. It was discussed that the mulch at the park needs spread out. It was also reported that the gutter between the pavilions are leaking.

**Sidewalks:** No business brought forward.

**Street and Alley:** Trustee Clayton told the board that he would like to oil and chip some roads this year since it hasn’t been done since 2018. He also told the board that he didn’t know if it should be done until the water project is done.

Trustee Clayton also said he had brought a bid from A&M Tree Service for the two trees that needed to be removed by Shirley Fisher’s. The bid was 1200.00 for two trees and stump removal.

A motion was made by Trustee Clayton and seconded by Trustee Gooder to hire A&M Tree Service to cut two trees down by Shirley Fisher’s at the cost of 1200.00. Vote: Trustee’s Brenda Patton-yes, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Denise Carey-yes, and Scott Vincent-yes Motion Carried

The board discussed the MFT taxes and it was again discussed that the village hasn’t ask for the 5% increase, which hasn’t been raised for several years. Trustee Clayton will talk to Sky about the increase.

A motion was made by Trustee Clayton and seconded by Trustee Gooder to table any decisions on the MFT taxes until the 5% can be added to the amount. Vote: Trustee’s Brenda Patton-yes, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Denise Carey-yes, and Scott Vincent-yes. Motion Carried

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A motion was made by Trustee Scott Vincent and seconded by Rick Clayton to accept the treasurer’s report for the month of May. Vote: Trustee’s Brenda Patton-yes, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Denise Carey-yes, and Scott Vincent-yes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Trustee Scott Vincent and seconded by Sandy Gooder to accept the bills for the month of May. Vote: Trustee’s Brenda Patton-yes, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Denise Carey-yes, and Scott Vincent-yes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Trustee Denise Carey and seconded by Sandy Gooder to accept the minutes of the May meeting. Vote: Trustee’s Brenda Patton-abstain, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Denise Carey-yes, Scott Vincent-yes. Motion Carried

The next regular meeting will be held on July 6,2021 @7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Trustee Scott Vincent to adjourn. All board members in favor

A motion was made by Trustee Scott Vincent and seconded by Brenda Patton to go into executive session. Vote: Trustee’s Brenda Patton-yes, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Denise Carey-yes, and Scott Vincent-yes.

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Tammy J. Hamell, Village Clerk

**Executive Session**

June 1, 2021

Mayor Mike Whitehead told the board that he had a few issues that need to discuss that are more of a personal interest. First he explained to the board that the personal message that the employee has set up for himself somehow transferred over to the answering machine at the water plant. This was taken care of immediately.

Mayor Mike Whitehead then told the board that the village employee will be having surgery in the next few months. He will be in the hospital for a minimum of 1 week and will be off longer for recovery. Mike explained to the board that he had been shadowing the employee to know what his job duties are and he has been taking over on the weekends since Jonathan Tarrant has quit, there is no one else to do the job. Tarrant was making $11.00 per hour for being the replacement for Sky. The Rural Water Association Is the one who will still covering the license for the village. The board discussed the $500.00 fee that was now being paid that would no longer be an expense. With the type of surgery that the employee is having the board thought that maybe a release from the doctor before he returned to work for liability purposes. At this time it is unknown how long he will be off. The board discussed that once the water project is here, the village employee’s job should be redefined.

Mayor Mike Whitehead then told the board that we have two people in town that needed to serve community service for the village. He asks the board to think of some things that needed to be done here in town for these individuals. Some suggestions off hand were, pavilion at the park needs painted, stairs on grandstand need painted. Mayor Whitehead told the board to be thinking of projects for these two. A question was raised on liability on these workers.

The ditches were discussed that needed mowed. The possibility of a 9ft sickle bar was discussed.

Trustee Vincent brought up using some of the park by the old school as farm ground to add to the income of the village. The old ball diamond was discussed and it seems they want to get it going again.

The board discussed Jonathan Tarrant quitting as the dogcatcher and at $1200.00 per year was it worth hiring someone else. There seemed to be some different options on the matter.

A motion was made by Trustee Scott Vincent and seconded by Sandy Gooder to adjourn. All in favor

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Tammy J. Hamell , Village Clerk