

November 10th, 2020
Village of Rapids City
Rock Island County, Illinois

This Regular Board meeting was called to order by President Mire at 7:00p.m.

Roll Call:

Present – Rankin, Schnieder, Fiems, Clark, Fowler and Robertson

Absent – None.

Others Present – Attorney Nick Mason, Clerk Housenga, Chief Tone, Greg Kerner, John Neziroski, Don Hunt

A quorum was physically established.

CONSENT “Omnibus” Agenda:

Schnieder requested meeting minutes from 10-13-2020 be corrected to state “Schneider noted while attending local businesses over the past weeks he noticed food service staff not using or wearing masks.” Rankin motioned to approve 10-13-2020 Regular Meeting Minutes with the requested changes, 11-2020 Monthly Bills and Treasure’s Report presented by Barber 10-2020. Fiems seconded. All board members voted yes, motion carries.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

PRESIDENT – Mire: Mire first took up the matter of the Tax Levy for collection year 2021. Mire recommended a taxing rate of .5761 and has conferred with Treasurer Barber, Mire states Barber has no issues with this rate. Clerk Housenga also provide a worksheet that detailed a maximum collection amounts for consideration as well. After review of each proposed collection amounts Robertson motioned approve the tax levy rate of .5761, amounts to be collected are \$69,700.00 for General Fund; \$23,000.00 for IMRF Funding, \$20,915.00 for Police Protection; \$4,182.00 for Cemetery Funding; \$7,530.00 for Audit Services; \$20,767.00 Liability Insurance; and \$14,570.00 for Social Security Wages. Mire stated in the future taxes may need to go up to help with big infrastructure projects that are needed. If property tax amounts do not go up, then an increase in sales tax maybe required. Mire also stated if a legalized cannabis retailer were to set up in Rapids City this would help bring in more tax money from sales.

Mire then moved the meeting along by discussing with the Trustees, Village Attorney, Chief Tone, and local business owners how the new COVID-19 mitigation level will impact the businesses and what they can expect from the Village Staff. Many concerns were expressed by all parties that attended the meeting including, the well being of all that enter and work in our local businesses, loss of revenue for businesses, loss of employees, enforcement. In the end of conversation, it was determined the Village does not have the manpower or resources to enforce the new requirements. Robertson motioned to approve and adopt a procedure in reference to the Governor of Illinois’s proclamation Tier 1 Enhanced Mitigation efforts is as follows; if received a complaint to the Village there will be written notification upon Village letterhead to the Illinois Department of Health and copied to the Rock Island County Health Department, the Village Attorney and the impacted business owner with a request to receive follow-up as the result of any investigations. Fiems seconded. Schneider, Fiems, Clark and Robertson voted yes; Rankin and Fowler voted no. Motion passes 4 to 2. Mire clarified to all attendees, should any business affected by the mitigations choose to open, as the Village has not told them they cannot open, the state and county can take any actions deemed necessary and right by the mandate. Mire also stated this matter could be revised in the future once and if the mitigation levels change.

Mire then noted the upcoming drive-thru Senior Luncheon on November 18th between 11am and 2pm.

Mire also provided an article to Trustee concerning the cannabis licensing delays.

A thank you was received by Mary Beth Eggers.

POLICE REPORT – Chief Tone: Report as presented. Mire asked Tone why some of the report was blacked out and some not, Tone responded some were individual residences if not blocked out we would know who they were. Mire also asked about citations issued report, only one ticket was received in the office, names were redacted to protect individuals. Mire asked Tone to provide the offenses that occur in the Village. Mire also requested a listing of all tickets issued pertaining to Rapids City.

ATTORNEY – N. Mason: Nothing to report at this time.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Carey: Report as presented.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Report as presented.

BUILDING, ZONING & PLANNING – Fiems: Fiems reported permits are being issued he is thinking a supply line has opened which is promoting projects. Fiems also made note to Chief Tone a white pickup truck stealing building material.

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PERSONNEL & FINANCE – Clark: Clark took note two policies that were presented to everyone in means of handling pandemics and COVID-19 for employees for discussion. Rankin motioned to enter Executive/Closed Session to discuss an employee situation, Robertson seconded. All voted yes at 8:59pm with a brief personal break.

9:17pm President Mire resumed Open Session of this Regular Board Meeting. It was determined through roll call those in attendance, Fowler, Robertson, Rankin, Schneider, Fiems and Clark as well as Nick Mason and Clerk Housenga.

Fiems reviewed both the policies previously mentioned and feels both should be adopted but with the addition of Compensation to the title of the COVID-19 Policy. Robertson suggested the removal of the payroll section of the Pandemic Policy also recommending on the COVID-19 Policy the removal of the CDC recommendations. Schnieder added keeping the Pandemic Policy but to add to the COVID-19 Policy that employees should not ride in the same vehicle as well as omitting a portion of the sentence where the employee would need to address the board for and extension if they have not recuperated. Schnieder motioned to approve the modified Pandemic Response Policy and modified Village of Rapids City COVID-19 Compensation Policy. Fiems seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

Clark motioned to give Ann's Helping Hands a donation of \$150.00. Fiems seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

Fiems authorized a donation request from Veterans Memorial Park in the amount of \$100.00. MidAmerican has extended a donation of \$500.00. Trustee would like to use the donation for the purchase of additional street banners and/or lighting. Clerk Housenga noted we still needed to spend the \$500.00 donation from MidAmerican Energy from last year. Rankin motioned to approve the purchase of holiday street banners not to exceed the amount of \$1,000.00. Fowler seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Rankin: Rankin informed the board of correspondence from MSA Professional Services explaining 13th Street Culvert area may be shored up to allow the weight necessary to allow plowing of snow. Public Works Department would be able to complete the shoring.

Rankin motioned to approve a final payment as requested from Needham Excavating for the 14th Street Culvert Project in the amount of \$8,538.47. Schnieder seconded. All present voted yes. Motion carries.

ELECTIONS – Mire: Mire reminded consolidated elections for the Village will be April 6th, 2021, positions available are Village President and 3 Trustee spots. Packets can be picked up for positions beginning September 22nd, 2020 and need to be turned in between December 14th and 21st, 2020.

PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY – Robertson: Robertson reported asphalt will be added as the approach for the new exercise equipment at Schuler's Shady Grove Wellness Center.

ORDINANCE & LICENSES – Schneider: Nothing to report at this time.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EVENT PLANNING & PUBLIC SAFETY – Fowler: Fowler reported 30 people took advantage of the E-Waste Event held last month. Fowler also reported a fire truck with a winter display will be available for our Christmas event this year. Filled stockings will be available for children. Schnieder explained 3 times the amount of people are expected to sign up for the giving tree.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Robertson would like to have a remote meeting for the December meeting. Clerk Housenga will check into Zoom and other remote options.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

With nothing further to be discussed, Fiems motioned to adjourn this Regular Board Meeting; Clark seconded. All members of the Board concurred. President Mire adjourned this November 10th, 2020 meeting at 9:42p.m.

Missy M. Housenga
Village Clerk