

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

Board Study Session Minutes – December 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Heather McArty called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Jason Elliott		X	
Cathi Fritz	X		
Bob Parr	X		
Doit Roberts	X		
Ferrell Stroh	X		
Robert Wright	X		

Mayor McArty called the meeting to order 6:30 pm.

Village Hall: Steve Wendell's last day is December 31, 2021. The board discussed having a retirement party, but Heather stated Steve did not want one and the board would respect his wishes. It was discussed that the Village should provide a gift certificate to a nice restaurant.

Cathi Fritz brought the board the idea of the Village purchasing portable radar signs. She explained this provided the police department with real-time data to focus on areas where speeding is more likely to happen. This also provides drivers a reminder when entering town or a school zone. The prices ranged from \$2,800 - \$3,500. Mayor McArty forwarded this information to Ron Soderstrom. He felt it was unnecessary to spend the money as the department has conducted investigations. Most of the time, speeds average 1-2 mph over the speed limit. His suggestion was to partner with IDOT and the school to install solar flashing lights for the school speed zone areas. He felt the money spent is needed more for the body cameras and computers for the squad cars.

Ferrell Stroh stated he didn't see a problem with speeding and that 3-4 studies have already been completed. Within the trailer park, they were having issues with speeding, and stop signs were installed. He asked if this could be an option. He also felt this would be a slap to the face for the department as it would be a message from the board that they are not doing their job. Cathi explained the department is doing its job, but this could help provide the department with real-time data. This is not negative but a supplemental benefit to the department and kids' safety.

Bob Parr stated he would like to see signs for the school zones and not a speed trailer. Robert Wright felt both could be done. He can see flashing school signs during school hours and possibly something put as you enter the town and don't feel this is an insult to the department. It was agreed that this item should be placed on the December agenda.

Park Restroom Improvements: Cathi Fritz provided the board with information regarding needed park restroom improvements. To get something drawn up of the current space would cost around \$1,000. This would provide ideas for how many stalls could be installed in the existing area and the possibility of additional space. Robert Wright stated this information is needed for future planning. There are currently no available drawings of the current structure. Fritz agreed this would allow the board to see what is possible and provide information to see if the board would need to change gears and do something else. There was additional discussion on the additional resources that would be necessary, such as a lift station for extra power, the current sewer system limitations.

Robert Wright stated if the Village does any updates, they must be ADA compliant. There is a need for an engineer to come in and assess the current infrastructure. Mayor McArty agreed to start with an engineer to see and

recommend. It was discussed to search for an engineer first and then see what they would charge for the initial assessment.

At 7:29 pm, Mayor McArty asked for a motion to go into the executive session. Bob Parr made a motion to go into executive session and seconded F. Stroh.

The board came back into regular session at 7:55 pm.

December Study Session Topics

Village Assets: Robert Wright asked if the Village has a complete list of village assets over \$5,000. Most entities should have a balance sheet where assets are recorded as part of the business value. Items that are not real estate need to be labeled with the assessment numbers. Mayor McArty stated that Julie does keep a list and does this every January. She will have her work on a list of properties. C. Fritz said it would be nice to have a list so that when equipment is being replaced, this will provide a bigger picture of the needs.

Employee handbook: Robert Wright stated there had been a new employee handbook that has been put together where everything is in one place. He feels the trustees need to know the details and rules listed within. A large portion addresses critical issues discussed recently and any foreseeable problems that may arise to protect the Village from a claim of misinformation or plausible deniability. Mayor McArty stated that all employees have signed off on the handbook.

Trustee Opening: Mayor McArty stated that Jason Elliot has formally resigned from his trustee position. She said that she checked on the procedure from the IML on how to fill a vacant seat, and the mayor can recommend someone to the board within 60 days of the resignation. If declined, the mayor has another 30 days for a second recommendation.

Village Projects: Robert Wright stated he is willing to keep a list of all projects being discussed and worked on. He said he would like to have a list with basic details by the January meeting. The report doesn't need to be fully scoped but the concept. He stated this would also summarize all the Village has accomplished throughout the year. This would also help provide consistent updates from departments. The following are what he has listed at this point:

- Southern Tire Mart
- Oakwood Grade School/JH expansion
- Oakwood JH Sports location (e.g., baseball)
- Traffic control measures. (speed sensors, stripping on the streets and curbs)
- Flag for Village Hall
- Watchfire Sign for Rail Trail Area
- Painting Storage Shed
- Village reports provided electronically.
- Streets and sidewalks
- OPW equipment improvements (i.e., white Ford F250 and red Chevy 1500)
- Concrete around the village hall
- Park building bathrooms

The BOX Expansion: Robert Wright updated the board on THE BOX expansion. He stated Brett Harrison has reduced the scope of work he wanted regarding the building but is still interested in expanding the garden area but would like to know of any assistance he can get from the Village. The following are a few things items that were discussed brought to the board:

- For the Village - **THE BOX will no longer need to use Scott St. as a spillover for patrons.**
- For the Village - **The look and feel of the downtown area will be improved with better fencing, pillars, landscaping, etc.**

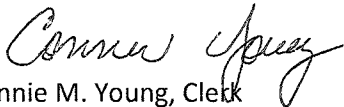
- For the Village - The sign out front will have Beer and Wine added, so it is not called The Liquor Box, but THE BOX with Beer, Liquor, Wine would be written in script.
- For THE BOX – Needs help purchasing the land and renovations.
- For THE BOX – Wants extended hours on weekends and holiday eves.
- For THE BOX – Wants extended hours for live music and karaoke. This will have to come with a noise ordinance to reduce volume. That should not be a problem if the patrons are contained in the garden area or inside.

Mayor McArty stated the extended hours had been approved on a case by case based on the type of event. There was discussion on obtaining the property adjacent to the current location. C. Fritz stated she would abstain from voting for project decisions as she doesn't want it to be seen as a conflict of interest due to the relationships involved. C. Fritz also stated she thought the board was waiting on the plans for the project to be drawn up. R. Wright said there is an order of operation that needs to happen and the purchase of the property is the first thing that needs to be accomplished before plans are drawn up.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:23 pm, R. Stroh made a motion to adjourn with a second from B. Parr.

Respectfully submitted,


Connie M. Young, Clerk

Approved 1/18/22