

## **FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

Mayor Jeremy Nunes convened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Dawson Village Board with the Pledge of Allegiance, at 7:00 p.m.

Trustees present were Joan Davis, Jacob Byerline, Joshua Blakeman, Nancy Prytherch, John Reilly and Robin Ashton-Hale. Also present were Mayor Jeremy Nunes, Clerk Pat Curry, Water Superintendent Charlie Abbott, Engineer Kevin Kuhn and Treasurer Shelly Farley.

Josh Blakeman made a motion to approve the minutes as written, with a second by Jake Byerline. Roll Call: Nancy: yes, John: yes, Robin: yes, Joan: Pass, Jake: yes, Josh: yes. MC

Nancy Prytherch made a motion to approve the bills, with a second by Josh Blakeman. MC

Treasurer Shelly Farley presented a budget report, as of December 31, 2015, to the board. She also gave them profit and loss reports for both the General Fund and the Water Fund.

**New Business:** Dee Smith appeared before the board to discuss a question about the lack of raises for employees. He said that two years ago they received a 1.5% raise, and last year a 1% raise. He said that he just saw in the minutes that the village purchased lighted Christmas decorations for \$1,600.00. He said that he spoke with other employees and they are upset that this purchase was made but not give employees a raise. That just indicates to us where we rate on the totem pole, so to speak. Pretty low. We feel slighted, if there is no money for raises but there is money for Christmas decorations. I know, I'm retiring in five months, July 1, so it doesn't really affect me. If circumstances are such that there is no money, I understand. If you are going to revisit discussing raises, okay. Those two guys are learning really quickly. He also asked if the state had released the funds being held. Mayor Nunes said the state was with holding money from municipalities for a while, some was released last month. Mayor Nunes said that he was confused as to why the staff didn't understand, since he spoke to the employees directly about the raises the day after the November vote. He told the group then that the raises would be rediscussed in late spring or early summer, when there was more clarity to the water fund's budget. Mayor Nunes also said that the staff got a 2% raise two years ago, and 1% last year, so Dee's information was somewhat incorrect. He added that the decorations are purchased from the general fund, and about 97% of payroll is paid through the water fund. The purchase was on a completely different line item in a completely different budget, so it had no impact on employee raises. Are you Speaking for Scott and Jack, too? Dee said we discussed the raises, they are on call 24 hours 7 days a week for \$11.00 an hour. That's fine for mowing grass, but when it's 3 am and you are in mud up to your knees ... You gotta let them know you appreciate them. Mayor Nunes said I have been very vocal in my appreciation for their efforts during the flood, and that he lifted the comp time only restriction on overtime so that everyone was paid fairly at time and a half. Dee said that he knew the Mayor was vocal about the staff's efforts.

### **Engineer's Report:**

Flood Wall: Kevin Kuhn said the structural guys had looked at the water plant and estimate about \$200,000.00. They can use tiles with channels and also make concrete bricks. They would look like the concrete barriers you see on the interstate. We also need receipts for MFT to close out. Mayor Nunes said he will contact Congressman LaHood to see if he can help.

Yearly contract: Our contract is the same as last year. Attorney Scott looked at it and made a couple of revisions. Robin Ashton-Hale made a motion to approve the contract with a 30 day opt out clause, with a second by Nancy Prytherch. MC

### **Old Business:**

Water Tower Painting: Charlie said that will be in the Spring.

Water system Improvement: Discussed in engineer's report.

Water Superintendent Charlie Abbott said he planned to attend the annual RWA seminar in Effingham and would like to take Jack Prytherch with him this year. There is a lot of information to be learned and contacts to make. We would drive back and forth rather than stay over night. Maybe I could take Scott Hale to another seminar. I know they cost money but they are worthwhile. Mayor Nunes supported the idea, stating that we had budgeted for a lot of employee training, knowing that it would be needed. John Reilly approved attendance at the seminar including both employees, with a second by Robin Ashton-Hale. MC

### **Trustee's Report:**

Archive Documents Prytherch/Davis: Nancy said we were able to destroy everything that was approved. Now we will start on the next batch of documents.

Robin Ashton Hale noted there is a derelict car on the side of the road at the corner of Lewis and Elm streets. Clerk Pat Curry said she had intended to bring that to the attention of the board, a resident had asked about it the week before. The vehicle is actually on village property. Attorney Scott said we can

send them a letter according to Article VII: Abandoned Vehicles: Motor Vehicle Code 14-7-4 allows for action that can be taken by the village to remove the vehicle. He went on to say the village should get the VIN number to ascertain who the owner may be. If it is over 7 years old, it may be junked. Mayor Nunes said that he would stop by and get the VIN number. Jake Byerline made a motion to get the VIN number and follow through with having the vehicle removed, with a second by Nancy Prytherch. MC

**Attorney's Report:**

Golf Cart Ordinance: The village can regulate the hours golf carts may be operated, the age of the operators and various other restrictions. He presented the board with a draft of ordinance 2016-VOD-002 Regulation the operation of golf carts on the village of Dawson public streets. A citation may be issued. Mayor Nunes said like pet violations, the village sends a written warning first. These are some of the ordinances that Trustees Jake and Robin were reviewing that the IML suggests we have in writing. Mayor Nunes said the \$15.00 one time fee is to the ordinance to cover village costs for printing permits and stickers. John Reilly asked what Mechanicsburg has in place? Attorney Scott said the Mechanicsburg ordinance book refers to off highway vehicles, which allows 4-wheelers and other motorized vehicles, which we want to avoid. Attorney Scott added that a driver's license is required, there is a 30 mph speed limit, a bicycle safety flag, one year cost of \$15.00 for a permit, which can be revoked restricted between the hours of 10 pm and 5 am, the fine for a third offense may be up to \$500.00. Drivers must be 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license and have auto insurance. The Village of Dawson ordinance is more specific. State law does not allow golf carts, ATV, or 'Gators' on streets, so without the ordinance golf carts are not street legal. Much discussion followed. Jake Byerline made a motion to approve ordinance 2016-VOD-001, with a second by John Reilly. Roll Call: Nancy: Yes, John: Yes Robin: Yes, Joan: Yes, Jake: Yes, and Josh: No. MC

Attorney Scott also presented the Gas Tax Ordinance 2016-VOD-001 showing the village is continuing to collect the gas tax. A copy will be sent to Ameren.

**Mayor's Report:**

Recycle Bins: Mayor Nunes said he had been in contact with Dave Schaab, of Waste Management, about larger recycle bins. That is still in process, as they are dragging their feet.

Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Nunes said he had a good talk with Jeff Fulgenzi, who shared some confidential things with him, that made the long delay more understandable. The plan is coming along.

Public Library Trivia Night: Mayor Nunes told the board he had received a letter requesting a donation for the library's trivia night. He suggested a \$50.00 donation. Clerk Pat Curry said she would suggest the village donate the same amount of money to the library as they donated to the Community Club Trivia Night. Mayor Nunes asked how much that was. Pat Curry replied, nothing. Trustees Nancy Prytherch, Robin Ashton-Hale and Joan Davis concurred. Mayor Nunes said that he was unaware of the Community Club requesting a donation.

Neighborhood Watch: Mayor Nunes said he spoke with Sheriff Wes Barr. The police position that supporting forming a neighborhood watch was held by Wes Barr, and since he was elected Sheriff, the position is still vacant. A community gathering, to discuss setting up the Neighborhood Watch again, will likely take place around April. Sheriff Barr is willing to join the gathering to assist.

Public Comment Ordinance: Mayor Nunes explained a public forum allows people to speak. Ancil-Glink suggested setting a time limit for individuals from the public to speak. Attorney Scott said an ordinance is not really necessary since the person conducting the meeting can stop the speaker if it goes on too long. Discussion on policies in Sherman and Chatham ensued.

Security Camera: Mayor Nunes said the village is looking into updating the security cameras at the park. Austin Etherton is the suggested contact. Charlie Abbott said it is possible to set it up so the footage can be viewed at the village office. Discussion followed. Mayor Nunes said we will have different options, he still hasn't heard back about pricing.

County Website: Mayor Nunes reminded the board that he had mentioned this website before. It would be a shared website with all the communities, who participate, posting equipment they have that can be loaned or is for sale. The one time fee is between \$200.00-300.00. For an example, during the recent flood the village got a ton of stuff from various sources that Charlie and Dee contacted. Riverton desperately needed pumps and finally ended up buying what they needed. Later, Williamsville told them they had 5 pumps you could have used. John Reilly made a motion approving Dawson's participation in a community website for \$300.00, with a second by Robin Ashton-Hale. MC

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday: Mayor Nunes said he was surprised to find village employees at work that day. The post office and banks are closed. He would like to see MLK Jr Day added as a paid holiday for the village. Josh Blakeman made a motion to add Martin Luther King Jr Day as a holiday for

the village employees, with a second by Robin Ashton-Hale. MC

John Reilly asked if there had been any word on reimbursement for the flood costs from FEMA? Mayor Nunes said submissions from the county did not exceed the amount to be reimbursed. If the amount statewide can exceed the amount required there is a possibility we still might be reimbursed.

Mayor Nunes asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss raises. Josh Blakeman made a motion to go into executive session, with a second by Robin Ashton-Hale. MC

Open session resumed, with no action being taken.

8:40 Adjournment