

Village of Prairie Grove
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2007

1. Call to Order: President Breseman called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Roll Call: Trustees Baudin, Duda, Greenwald, McConnell, Robak and President Breseman all present. Trustee Connelly is absent from his seat at the dais; he is present in the audience.

Administrator Smith, Clerk Minor and Attorney McArdle also present.

3. Public Comment:

William Franz, Developer of Timberhill Subdivision stated that he has spent over \$100,000.00 in Engineering costs that he has been told by other Engineers that this was not necessary. He wants finality. He was sent a punch list yesterday with 59 items on it to complete before the Village Engineer, Bleck Engineering, could grant maintenance. The punch list states that Bleck's Engineer must be on site before any work on the punch list is completed. Mr. Franz stated that this is the first time he's ever had to do this. He has sold 82 lots and only has 16 left. He wants to know what will happen when this punch list is completed?

Administrator Smith stated that August was the wettest one on record and all Engineering in Timberhill worked as planned. The communication has gone well with this project.

President Breseman stated that the Village wanted to work with Mr. Franz to finish this up. Mr. Franz was instructed to email Bleck Engineering with any issues and to copy Administrator Smith on it.

Trustee McConnell stated that he and Trustee Baudin had met with a citizens group recently regarding the 2006 Tax Levy. He reported that these citizens want to know why taxes have increased higher than non home rule rate, are requesting that the Village Board promise not to raise taxes higher than the non-home rule in the future. They are requesting a refund for the difference in taxes between non-home rule and the actual Prairie Grove rate. Trustee Baudin stated that the following residents were present at this meeting: Margaret Ponga, Mr. Ponga, Wayne Huerth, Vickie Marconi, Trustee McConnell and Trustee Baudin. Sean Rathjen joined in at the last few minutes of the discussion.

President Breseman stated that emails are being sent out to anyone registered on the list serve letting all interested residents know about all Village Meetings. The residents should come to the Village Board Meetings to be put on public record with their comments and that way the whole Village Board would have a chance to comment on their suggestions. President Breseman stated that he thought this was pretty offensive and that any real concerns should be discussed out in the open in a public forum.

Trustee Duda stated that we could put the same information out there that had already been given to the residents at the Town Hall Meeting.

Trustee McConnell stated that his thoughts were that we, as a Village could do even more to inform residents before deciding to raise taxes such as holding a Town Hall Meeting.

The Tax Levy Hearing is held once a year and it will be coming up soon. This hearing will be published and sent to the list serve just as all of our meetings are.

Trustee McConnell suggested the Village do a survey to understand how the majority of the residents feel about this issue: whether in the future, when the housing market recovers, the Village should offer a rebate, decrease tax rates or offer increased services such as increased Police protection.

Trustee Baudin stated that the Village had been dependent on building permits in the past and that the Village cannot stay dependent on future development.

4. Consent Agenda: Motion was made by Trustee Baudin, 2nd by Trustee Duda to approve the Leach Annexation and Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2007, Expenditure Reports of September 10, 2007 and the Revenues for August 2007. **On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Duda, Greenwald, McConnell and Trustee Robak all voted Aye, Motion carries.**

5. Committee Reports and meeting dates:

Trustee McConnell stated that everyone should have received the EDC Commission Report by email.

6. Staff/Consultant reports or comments:

Administrator Smith stated that the additional revenue from the Special Census should start this month. The MFT Revenue should begin next month.

The Fall Festival has been planned and Administrator Smith would ask that all Village Board members are present and participate.

Police Chief Sosnowski stated that the Village had been donated a cage by Sergeant Hodges. This cage has been installed in our basement to be used by the Police Department for their evidence room.

a. Motion to Appoint Judy Olson as Village Treasurer: Administrator Smith stated that Judy works currently for the Village of Spring Grove as their Treasurer for 3 days a week. She understands Government Accounting. She'll be coming in and working for us on Mondays. Administrator Smith stated that we were very fortunate to have Judy join us. Administrator Smith has recently purchased new accounting software for the Village. **Motion was made by Trustee Baudin, 2nd by Trustee Duda** to approve the appointment of Judy Olson as Village Treasurer to begin on October 1, 2007. **On a Roll**

Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Duda, Greenwald, McConnell and Trustee Robak all voted Aye, Motion carries.

b. Village Administrator Evaluation: This will bring Prairie Grove to a level of more professional administration for staff evaluation. The evaluation forms will be in the areas of expertise. Evaluations will be done in the next couple of weeks. Future evaluations should be completed by March so that increases could be considered for budgeting purposes. Administrator Smith has asked that the Village Board complete the evaluation on her and forward them to President Breseman.

7. Old Business/Board Comments: Welcome Back Trustee Connelly.

8. New Business/Board Comments:

a. Motion to Approve, Resolution #2007-07, Establishing Signatories on Village Bank Accounts: Motion by Trustee Baudin, 2nd by Trustee Robak to approve a Resolution #2007-07, Establishing Signatories on Village Bank Accounts. On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Duda, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all voted aye. Motion carries.

b. Motion to Approve Ordinance #431, Amending the Prairie Grove Municipal Code: Motion by Trustee Baudin, 2nd by Trustee Duda to approve an Ordinance #431, amending the Prairie Grove Municipal Code. On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Duda, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all voted aye. Motion carries.

9. Executive Session: None

10. Adjournment: Motion was made by Trustee Baudin, 2nd by Trustee Robak to adjourn this Village Board Meeting at 7:55 PM. On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Duda, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all voted Aye, Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kim Minor, Village Clerk