

Village of Prairie Grove
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2008

1. Call to Order: President Breseman absent. Trustee Baudin (acting as President Pro-Tem) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Roll Call: Administrator Smith, Clerk Minor, Attorney McArdle, Trustees Baudin, Connelly, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all present. Trustee Duda and President Breseman absent.

3. Public Comment:

Trustee Baudin asked anyone that was present and wanting to discuss the fence issue, please wait until the fence topic is brought up on the agenda.

Lisa Behm of 4091 Barreville Road asked that the Village Board consider not striping the roads that will be repaved. This would save the Village a considerable amount of money. She also wanted to bring up the fact that trucks are hauling excavating materials off site at Rt. 176, from the Preston Pines Development in Crystal Lake.

Administrator Smith stated that she had spoken to Crystal Lake and that the materials being mined at that location were to be re-used at that site. She will follow up with Crystal Lake. She also stated that the striping of the roads is for safety reasons. The Village doesn't have any no-passing signs on these roads.

Trustee Baudin stated that Gary Overbay, the Village traffic engineer has said in the past that the yellow lines are visible at night; giving the motorist a sense of security on the roads.

The Village Board asked about the cost of striping. Public Works Superintendent Tim Carone stated that it was \$12,300.00. The Village Board asked to discuss this issue at the next Village Board Meeting. They suggested talking with our Director of Public Safety, Ron Lyons and the residents on Nish & Valley View roads.

Trustee Robak stated that safety is of critical importance.

Trustee Baudin stated that signs might be more inexpensive.

Public Works Superintendent Carone stated that Nish already has no-passing signs.

4. Consent Agenda:

Motion was made by Trustee Robak, 2nd by Trustee Connelly to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2008, the Expenditure Reports of July 21 & August 4 & August 11, 2008, the Revenues of July 2008 and the following Motions: Motion to Approve Ordinance #453, An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of Hicks Annexation Agreement, Motion to

Ratify Draw on Letter of Credit for The Preserve Subdivision, Motion to Approve Resolution #2008-11 Sale of Surplus Equipment.

Discussion: Trustee McConnell asked if there were any changes to item d on the consent agenda. Attorney McArdle stated not since the last edit. Trustee McConnell also asked if the money from the letter of credit for The Preserve Subdivision would be used to complete their punch list. Administrator Smith stated that it was and that she would work with Mr. Greenberg to make sure that everything gets completed.

Trustee Greenwald offered to help Superintendent Carone by being one of the Trustees to help on the sale of the surplus items.

On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Connelly, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all voted Aye, Motion carries.

5. Committee Reports and meeting dates:

Administrator Smith stated that the EDC would reconvene meeting in September. The Parks Committee recently met. They have decided on doing a bricks fundraiser and they will meet again in early September. This Committee will be taking over the Annual Fall Festival. It is planned for Sunday, October 5th. Administrator Smith showed the new Park plan design to those who have not seen it before. She also discussed the grant that has been applied for through the State.

6. Staff/Consultant reports or comments:

a. Introduction of New Police Officers: John Bottalico, James Page & John Pikrone.

Director of Public Safety Ron Lyons stated that all three officers have been sworn in prior to this evening. Trustee Baudin introduced and welcomed all of the new officers.

Trustee McConnell has some questions on Administrator Smiths report. He asked if she could put something out to the list serve regarding the resurfacing of Valley View and Nish Roads. Administrator Smith stated that she would, she would also include the resurfacing of Rt. 31 from Rt. 176 to Bull Valley Road and from Rt. 176 to Rt. 14 suggesting that residents find alternate routes.

Resident Jim Mueller asked if this plan included any widening for Rt. 31? Administrator Smith stated that this plan doesn't include widening at this time and that she was working with IDOT to get funding for some turn lanes. She also stated that the Village had tried to get a new traffic signal for the intersection of Rt. 31 at Half Mile Trail. As of two weeks ago the Village didn't pass the warrants necessary for a new traffic signal.

Trustee Greenwald asked about what type of progress is being made in the Timberhill Subdivision. Administrator Smith stated that Mr. Franz has been working on his punch list, including Stormwater Management issues. Trustee Greenwald asked about the final lift and asked that the Village push Mr. Franz to move ahead. Attorney McArdle will look at the letter of credit for Timberhill.

Trustee McConnell asked about the replacement of our current Treasurer. Administrator Smith replied that she is looking for someone to work 8-10 hours a week. Trustee Robak suggested putting a help wanted posting on our website.

Trustee Baudin stated that everything is moving along smoothly in the Police Department. Officers are doing online-based training. The Police Department held their first Annual National Night Out. There was a nice turn out. This gave the public a chance to meet our Police force.

Administrator Smith stated that she and Attorney McArdle had been given amendments to the Wildflowers Annexation Agreement. They discussed some possible ways of expediting the process for any changes to the agreement. For any major deviations this could go to the Board Level for approval. For any minor deviations this could go before plan review and for insignificant deviations these could be handled at staff level.

Administrator Smith stated that she had met with Metra, they have had some progressive meetings. Trustee Baudin asked if we had a time frame. Administrator Smith stated that they are currently in the process of looking at wetland mitigation. This could still be a couple of years away.

Trustee McConnell asked about the Hellyer court order. The Village was awarded an injunction to stop development on Mr. Hellyer's property. Administrator Smith stated that there are, Stormwater management issues.

Trustee Baudin stated that Mastercraft has moved into the Village. Administrator Smith stated that a ribbon cutting ceremony was discussed for September 5th. The Village Board liked the idea and wanted to pursue it.

Administrator Smith stated that Rosatti's Pizza has shown interest into moving to Rt. 176.

7. Old Business/Board Comments:

a. Discussion regarding Amendment to Chapter 21, section 21.3.18 Fences in Village Municipal Code:

Trustee Baudin stated that this was just a discussion. The Village will not be voting on this tonight.

Kathy Levin asked if the Village would consider putting up some additional deer warning signs.

Administrator Smith stated that the current Village Fence Ordinance is pretty light. It doesn't allow for chicken or barbed wire fences. Currently, there isn't much for ARC to review. An approval letter is needed from each Homeowners Association. The Village hasn't had any issues until last month. This is when the Village decided that they should look into amending our current fence ordinance. Should any vinyl fences be allowed?

Dan Shephard of 3401 Thunderbird Lane asked if the fence for 3408 Lakewood could be put on hold. He sees potential water drainage and tree issues. He started a petition in OakGrove regarding their fence covenants. He thinks fences should be prohibited at all times with the exception of enclosing pools. He has signatures of 50 residents that don't want any more fences allowed in OakGrove. He wants a moratorium on fences in OakGrove.

Trustee Baudin stated that the Village lays a blue print for the Village as a whole. This doesn't stop Homeowner's Associations from being more restrictive.

Jean Smith, President of OakGrove's Homeowner's Association stated that before this issue, no one ever complained about fences in OakGrove. She is putting together a survey and she is requesting that she be able to get the survey out and have a homeowner's Association meeting. She stated that these people have gone through the proper procedures and it's her opinion that they be allowed their fence permit.

Trustee Baudin suggested that the OakGrove Homeowner's Association put a moratorium on fences at their level. He said that our hands are tied on this issue. The Village has no legal basis to deny the fence.

Ann Molitor of 3603 Oakleaf Lane submitted a letter to the Village Board stating how she feels about the fence issue. She believes that the OakGrove Homeowner's Association should have handled this whole fence issue. She stated that when someone moves into OakGrove they sign a copy of the Homeowner's Association Covenants and that they accept them. They know that fences are allowed.

Jim Mueller took a petition around the subdivision on this fence issue. He has issues with putting fences around trees. He stated that Oak trees die if the roots are damaged. He hopes the Village would look at putting fences well off the utility easement so that water would not be impeded.

Lisa Behm of 4091 Barreville Road stated that they should make the neighborhood covenants more restrictive. She doesn't want to tell everyone what to do on his or her property.

Jerry Walsh of 3412 Lakewood Drive stated that fences could damage tree roots. He is concerned with property values.

A discussion ensued by the Village Board regarding certain types of fences for certain types of neighborhoods. The quality of materials was also discussed.

Tim Daum of 3404 Lakewood Drive asked about having a tree preservation organization come out before the fence is installed. Administrator Smith stated that the Village has a tree preservation ordinance.

Bridget Welsh of 3412 Lakewood Drive stated that she is concerned with the placement of the fence. She doesn't have a land survey. Trustee Baudin stated that she should call a land surveyor.

Trustee McConnell wanted to assure everyone that the amendments to the fence ordinance and the trees will be debated.

8. New Business/Board Comments:

a. Motion to Approve 2008 Non-MFT Supplemental Contract Maintenance & Award Bid to Geske & Sons, Inc. in the Amount of \$478,962.20:

Motion by Trustee Greenwald, 2nd by Trustee Robak to Approve 2008 Non-MFT Supplemental Contract Maintenance & Award Bid to Geske & Sons, Inc. in the Amount of \$478,962.20.

Discussion:

This was reviewed last month. Signs could be used instead of striping. We could possibly use an LCD lighted sign. Direction could be given at the next Village Board Meeting. Trustee McConnell asked if this was something we could add at a later date. Trustee Robak suggested painting verses the thermal cost. Public Works Superintendent Tim Carone stated that signs could be added to the existing speed limit signs.

Amended Motion by Trustee Greenwald, 2nd by Trustee McConnell to Approve 2008 Non-MFT Supplemental Contract Maintenance & Award Bid to Geske & Sons, Inc. in the Amount of \$478,962.20 and remove the striping. **On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Connelly, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all voted Aye, Motion carries.**

b. Motion to Approve Temporary Sign Variance, Behm Farm:

Motion by Trustee Connelly, 2nd by Trustee McConnell to Approve the Temporary Sign Variance for the Behm Farm without fees:

Discussion:

Ed Radwanski, ARC Chairman stated that the ARC Commission couldn't approve it because it went against our current Sign Ordinance. He also stated that he didn't think the current Sign Ordinance had factored in any farm stands. The locations of the signs would be on fences, which is typical for farm stands. The ARC Review Commission would recommend approving this variance without fees.

Administrator Smith stated that she didn't have any issues with the signs proposed.

Trustee McConnell stated that the Village Board should support the ARC recommendation.

Ed Radwandki, ARC Chairman stated that the Sign Ordinance states that it must maintain a 15 ft. setback. They are asking that the signs be placed at the property line and that no sight obstruction would exist. Ed also stated that what's currently in place is fine with the ARC Commission and that it doesn't impede the line of sight.

On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Connelly, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all voted Aye, Motion carries.

Jim Hicks stated that he would sincerely like to remain in good standing in the Village with his property. He asked if he needed to ask for a permit for anything he does differently from the way it is now. The Village Board responded by saying that a permit may not be necessary for everything. They suggested calling first.

Executive Session:

Motion by Trustee Robak, 2nd by Trustee McConnell to enter into Executive Session at 8:28 PM for discussion of potential litigation. **On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees Baudin, Connelly, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all voted Aye, Motion carries.**

No action taken in Executive Session.

Return to open session at 8:59 PM.

Roll Call: Trustees Baudin, Connelly, Greenwald, McConnell and Robak all answered aye.

10. Adjournment: Motion was made by Trustee Robak, 2nd by Trustee Greenwald to adjourn this Village Board Meeting at 9:00 PM. **On a Roll Call Vote: Trustees all voted Aye, Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Kim Minor, Village Clerk