



VILLAGE of CRETE

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VILLAGE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL S. EINHORN

VILLAGE CLERK
DEBORAH S. BACHERT

MINUTES VILLAGE OF CRETE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING October 24, 2016

REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

President Michael Einhorn called the regular board meeting of the President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Crete to order on Monday, October 24th, 2016 at 7:02 pm in the municipal building at 524 W. Exchange Street, Crete, Illinois. President Einhorn led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a roll call by Village Clerk Deborah Bachert the following were present: Trustees Steve Beaudoin, Dean Gaffney, Doris Harmon-Warren, Stephen Johnson, Mark Wiater and President Michael Einhorn. Trustee Holly Milburn was absent. A quorum was present.

Also in attendance: Attorney James Stevenson, Acting Administrator/Building Inspector Michael Smith, Police Chief James Paoletti, Fire Chief/Administrator Lyle Bachert, Fire Chief Mike Vittori, Public Works Superintendent Phil Hameister, Code Enforcement Supervisor/EMA Marty Braccio, Animal Warden/Code Enforcement Ryan Allison and Karen Tellef, Planning Commission.

CITIZENS' SPEAK

Visitors are always welcome to all public meetings of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Crete. Interested parties wishing to speak should identify their intent to speak, they then may give their name and where they reside if they so choose and then make their comment. Persons may also provide their address privately to the Village Clerk if they so choose; persons are advised that addresses are considered private information under the Freedom of Information Act and thus are exempt from disclosure pursuant to any Freedom of Information Act request. However, in order to give proper consideration to all items on the agenda, the President has the authority to limit participants in debates and will close repetitive or abusive remarks.

Special orders

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

STEVEN BEAUDOIN DEAN GAFFNEY DORIS HARMON-WARREN STEPHEN E. JOHNSON HOLLY MILBURN MARK WIATER

Unanimous Consent Agenda

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a board member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- Approval of Minutes : Regular Board Meeting – October 10, 2016
- Approval of Bills
- Ratification of Payroll

Trustee Wiater approved bills of Trustee Milburn, Road and Bridge.

A motion was made to approve the Unanimous Consent Agenda with the approval of Trustee Milburn's bills by Trustee Wiater.

Motion by Trustee Mark Wiater

Second by Trustee Steve Beaudoin

Ayes (5) Trustees Beaudoin, Gaffney, Harmon-Warren, Johnson, Wiater

Nays (0) none Absent (1) Trustee Milburn Abstain (0) none Motion declared carried.

REPORTS: PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEES

Public Health – Trustee Doris Harmon-Warren

- Attended an IRMA meeting last week and will make comment under New Business.

Water Department – Trustee Stephen Johnson

- Reported the iron removal project is moving forward, albeit slowly. Building plans are nearing completion and the mechanical drawings should be ready in the near future.
- The Village will be working on the financing (bond issue) paperwork.
- The Intergovernmental Agreement concerning the water tower is nearing completion.

Public Safety – Trustee Steven Beaudoin – no report

Building and Grounds – Trustee Dean Gaffney – no report

Finance, License and Ordinance – Trustee Mark Wiater

- "Hats Off" to Acting Administrator Mike Smith for his help on both Friday and Saturday evening this past week. Thanks for all the things you do for the Village of Crete.

Road and Bridge – Trustee Holly Milburn – absent

President Michael Einhorn

- The Mayor discussed at great length the difficulties he is encountering in working through the consolidation of the EASTCOM Emergency Dispatch Center into a new or different facility as a requirement of a new state law dictating consolidation. He stated that the preliminary cost figures indicate that EASTCOM's overall cost could go up by as much as \$220,000, bringing the figures anticipated to as high as \$379,000. This increased cost would be shared by all sixteen police and fire agencies that are served by EASTCOM.
- The Mayor also commented on a recent request received from the police pension fund to increase the Village's yearly contribution to the fund from this year's expected amount of \$371,000 up to \$794,378, an increase of 115%. He explained that this request is \$472,525 more than the amount required by state statute and well beyond that which the village can currently afford. The current statutory required contribution is \$321,853. This increase request is largely based on a lowering of the "return on investment" assumptions made by the pension fund and recent poor investment returns. The VB will look into increasing the amount paid in based upon availability of funds.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Acting Village Administrator – Michael Smith

- Asked for the board to begin consideration of an abrogation of easement for property on Joe Orr Road. The property owner, Jerry Ogor, 351 Joe Orr Road, has supplied all necessary information on the plan with approval of utility companies. Materials will be presented to the board in the future.
- Reported on the updating of the electronic sign in front of the village hall to a full color sign that would also allow for more characters to be displayed. The first cost estimate was in the \$16,000 range. The VB will be making a decision on the purchase in the coming months and it would be included in next year's budget if they decide to move forward.
- The garbage contract is in the second draft phase. The goal is to have the completed contract ready for signatures at the next board meeting.
- A second mailing going out to the residents of Crete is scheduled for Monday, October 31st. It will contain the explanation on the Village Sales Tax referendum on the November 8th ballot.

Police Department – Chief of Police James Paoletti

- Chief Paoletti gave information regarding the great detective work of Investigator Adam Groszek that resulted in the apprehension of a person that has twice robbed a local business and several businesses in the area. He worked with Hammond PD to break the case. Congratulations Officer Groszek.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Lyle Bachert

- In his last report to the Village Board prior to retirement, Chief Bachert stated the recent ISO evaluation of the fire department has determined that the fire insurance rating of the Village has been dropped from a Class 5 to a Class 4. The ratings range from 1 to 10 with Class One being the best rating possible. This change should help the fire insurance rates for residential, industrial and commercial real estate within the village. Over the past two decades the department has dropped from a 6 to a 4 by continuously improving our water system, communications system and fire department operations which are all factors that go into determining the grading number. It is hoped that within the next five years the department will be able to move towards attaining a rating of Class 3 as they are very near this goal at the present time.

Superintendent of Public Works – Phil Hameister – Report submitted

- The Village branch chipping for 2016 will end after October 31st.

Village Engineer – Tech III – no report

Building Department – Building Inspector Mike Smith – Report submitted

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Supervisor Marty Braccio – no report

Animal Warden/Code Enforcement – Ryan Allison – no report

Fire & Police Commission – no report

EMA – Marty Braccio

- Reported the concrete floor of the 280 W. Exchange will be crushed on site and stored there instead of being hauled away. This process will save the cost of bringing in gravel fill that will be needed under the new floor when building construction begins in 2017. This could save the Village almost \$7000.00.

Planning Commission – Karen Tellef – absent

Heritage Commission – Phyllis Monks – no report

COMMUNICATIONS:

Warrants:

Excise (Telecom. Tax) – (Col. Aug)	2016-\$20,043.62	2015-\$21,387.76
Local Use – (Col. Oct.)	2016-\$14,190.44	2015-\$15,200.73
Sales Tax – (Col. Aug.)	2016-\$62,161.27	2015-\$75,560.40
Income Tax – (Col.)	2016-\$	2015-\$
MFT Allotment – (Col.)	2016-\$	2015-\$
Pers. Prop. Rep. Tax–(Col. Oct)	2016-\$ 5,010.96	2015-\$ 5,515.39
ComEd Utility Tax (Col.)	2016-\$	2015-\$
Nicor Utility Tax (Col.)	2016-\$	2015-\$
Video Gaming Report (Col. Aug)	2016-\$ 6,853.47	2015-\$ 5,200.82

- **Reminder:** Pancake Breakfast at Crete Masonic Lodge, 1419 Main Street on Sunday, October 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 pm.
- **VOTE: Tuesday, November 8, 2016 General Election.**
- **Reminder:** Trick or Treat hours are scheduled for Monday, October 31, 2016 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. requiring adult supervision from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Reminder:** Crete park District sponsors the "Trick or Treat Trail" on Saturday, October 29th from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Douglas lane entry to the bike trail.
- **Reminder:** As of September 20, 2016, Nominating Petition Forms were available at the Village Hall during normal business hours for five positions (mayor, clerk, three trustees) that are to be filled on the Tuesday, April 4, 2017 Consolidated Election. Candidates must satisfy statutory requirements, be a qualified elector of the Village of Crete including having resided in the corporate limits for at least one year preceding the April 4, 2017 election.
- An email was received by Mike Smith from Len Rhein, Crete Bulldogs President, stating this year marks their 48th anniversary. A program book is being creating for future use. Donations in the form of display ads are available for purchase. Trustee Wiater was given the information to review.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion on Directional Billboards and Directional Signage at Route 394** (possibly lighted) for the Village. No final action is anticipated.

No new information is available at this time. The company is interested in the Crete area and is in the process of preparing a proposal.

2. **Ordinance No. 2016-_____**: An Ordinance establishing an increased application fee for liquor license, creating gaming liquor licenses and amending Chapter 4, Alcoholic Liquor of the Crete Municipal Code. No final action is anticipated.

Attorney Stevenson presented a draft of an ordinance that would set an application fee for a liquor license, limiting the number of certain types of licenses and creating two new classes of licenses that are linked to video poker machines. Minimal discussion took place since Trustee Milburn was absent and has strong opinions on this issue. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS continued:

- 3. Discussion on Village Intervenor** in Board of Review Docket No. 16-0944, St. James Property LLC. The Village previously adopted Resolution No. 2016-579 authorizing the Village intervening into St. James Property LLC's tax appeal. Board action is anticipated.

Per explanation of Attorney Stevenson, the Docket # 16-0944 will be explained in executive session with board action anticipated upon return from the executive session.

- 4. Discussion regarding LED lighting** being used in business windows. No final action is anticipated.

Trustee Johnson briefly discussed the issue of over use of LED style lights in the business areas of town and his desire to limit their use. This was also set aside until all board members can be present to discuss this issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion on restructuring** hours spent and compensation of the elected officials' duties. No final action is anticipated.

The Village Board discussed increasing the pay for elected officials as presented by Trustee Gaffney. The pay for the elected officials has not changed since 2004, which was 12 years ago. The increase prior to that time had been in 1996. Discussion ensued, however there was no action taken because board members could not agree on amounts of increase or assigning any additional responsibilities. President Einhorn asked the board to move forward on to other agenda items at this time to get through other matters.

2. IRMA Report from Trustee Doris Harmon-Warren

Trustee Harmon-Warren added this item for discussion after she had attended an IRMA meeting last week where additional insurance availability in several general liability areas was discussed. She believes these options should be considered. The Village Board agreed to increase the liability insurance coverage to \$15M at an additional cost of \$1,699.00 annually.

A motion was made to close the regular session of the board meeting and to move to executive session at 9:05 p.m. for the purpose of Pending Litigation.

Motion by Trustee Steve Beaudoin

Second by Trustee Doris Harmon-Warren

On Roll Call:

Ayes (5) Trustees Beaudoin, Gaffney, Harmon-Warren, Johnson, Wiater

Nays (0) none

Absent (1) Trustee Milburn

Abstain (0) none

Motion declared carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Pending Litigation

The board returned from Executive Session at 9:16 pm.

Pending litigation had been discussed in executive session. The Village previously adopted Resolution No. 2016-579 authorizing the Village intervening into St. James Property LLC's tax appeal.

A motion was made to authorize the Village attorney to sign the stipulation to settle the appeal of St. James Properties, LLC as reached by the appellant and the assessor's office.

Motion by Trustee Dean Gaffney

Second by Trustee Mark Wiater

Ayes (5) Trustees Beaudoin, Gaffney, Harmon-Warren, Johnson, Wiater

Nays (0) none Absent (1) Trustee Milburn Abstain (0) none Motion declared carried.

Trustees Beaudoin, Wiater and Gaffney asked to return to the issue of elected official's compensation and responsibilities and continue the discussion which had begun previously under New Business.

Due to statutory time limitations, the board members discussed acting upon an increase in stipends for future elected officials and the legal requirement that this must be passed, approved and published 180 days prior to taking the oath of office.

A motion was made by Trustee Beaudoin with second by Trustee Gaffney to raise the annual stipends as follows: President = \$13,900.00 Trustee = \$5,900.00 Clerk \$8,500.00.

Under discussion, it was decided to adjust the amounts as stated to reflect a ratio with the number of regular board meetings. Trustee Beaudoin withdrew the motion that he had made and Trustee Gaffney withdrew his second to the motion.

The board discussed increasing the Village Presidents pay to \$14,400 per year, the Clerks pay to \$9,600 per year and \$7,200 per year for each Trustee. After this discussion, **Ordinance No. 2016-20**, an Ordinance re-setting the stipends of the President, Trustees and Village Clerk and amending Sections 2-12, 2-21.1 and 2-151 of the Crete Municipal Code was acted upon. The increases reflected the ratio discussed above and would be effective for FY 2017-2018 for the newly elected officials.

A motion was made by Trustee Beaudoin to read aloud **Ordinance No. 2016-20** for the first time in title only.

Motion by Trustee Steve Beaudoin

Second by Trustee Dean Gaffney

Ayes (5) Trustees Beaudoin, Gaffney, Harmon-Warren, Johnson, Wiater

Nays (0) none Absent (1) Trustee Milburn Abstain (0) none Motion declared carried.

President Einhorn read aloud Ordinance No. 2016-20 for the first time in title only.

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A motion was made to read aloud Ordinance No. 2016-20 for the second time in title only.

Motion by Trustee Steve Beaudoin

Second by Trustee Dean Gaffney

Ayes (5) Trustees Beaudoin, Gaffney, Harmon-Warren, Johnson, Wiater

Nays (0) none Absent (1) Trustee Milburn Abstain (0) none Motion declared carried.

President Einhorn read aloud Ordinance No. 2016-20 for the second time in title only.

A motion was made to adopt **Ordinance No. 2016-20**, an Ordinance re-setting the stipends of the President, Trustees and Village Clerk and amending Sections 2-12, 2-21.1 and 2-151 of the Crete Municipal Code.

Motion by Trustee Steve Beaudoin

Second by Trustee Dean Gaffney

On a Roll Call

Ayes (5) Trustees Beaudoin, Gaffney, Harmon-Warren, Johnson, Wiater

Nays (0) none Absent (1) Trustee Milburn Abstain (0) none Motion declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the board, a motion was made to declare the meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Motion by Trustee Mark Wiater

Second by Trustee Steve Beaudoin

Ayes (5) Trustees Beaudoin, Gaffney, Harmon-Warren, Johnson, Wiater

Nays (0) none Absent (1) Trustee Milburn Abstain (0) none Motion declared carried.

Passed and Approved on this 14th day of November, 2016.

Michael S. Einhorn, Village President



Deborah S. Bachert, Village Clerk