

# Minutes

## Regular Board Meeting, Wednesday, 12 May 2010 at 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by the village president at 7:00 pm.

The roll call found John Barbeau, Dennis Steinke, Darold Collien, Dan Redman, Tim Stoppleworth, Larry Ott and Gary Collien present. Mr. Wagenknecht and Mr. Kamenski were also present.

A motion was made by Gary Collien, seconded by Dennis Steinke, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept them as written. The motion carried 7-0.

During the public comments, Mr. Wagenknecht asked the board to justify to the taxpayers the \$420.00 (actual cost \$360.00) expense for having special board meetings on 28 April and 5 May 2010. Mr. Wagenknecht stated that any business conducted at those meetings could have waited until this regular board meeting. The board asked Mr. Wagenknecht how he could possibly know what was necessary for the village board to do and whether the urgency of the matters discussed (the water tower refurbishing and painting contract and related decisions and the hiring of the new village clerk) justified the special meetings. Then Mr. Barbeau stated, on the record per Mr. Wagenknecht's request, that the two special board meetings were in fact necessary. Mr. Stoppleworth asked Mr. Wagenknecht how much taxpayer money he has personally wasted by his actions. Mr. Wagenknecht did not respond to that question.

Mr. Wagenknecht then asked about the status of the siding on the home of a neighbor. Mr. Barbeau informed him for the second time that it was an issue between the building inspector and the homeowner and that Mr. Wagenknecht had no role in that matter.

Finally, Mr. Wagenknecht once again claimed that the village board was guilty of nepotism, because a village employee and a village board member have the same last name. This is the second time that Mr. Wagenknecht has made a similar accusation. It was explained that hiring is done by either a full committee or by the village board, not by an individual and can therefore not be nepotism. It has also been pointed out to Mr. Wagenknecht that in a village like Oakfield, a majority of the population is likely to be related in some way or another. That does not preclude the village board from hiring the best person for the job.

A motion was made by John Barbeau, seconded by Larry Ott, to grant operator licenses to the following persons: Julie E. Franke, Robert J. Vander Grinten, and Rebecca L. Pribnow. The motion carried 7-0.

Committee updates:

- a. The Beautification Committee discussed the Memorial Day parade arrangements.
- b. The Public Works Committee gave a status report on the manhole inspection and repair project. They are waiting for a substantial rain to assess the infiltration levels in the manholes.

c. The Public Parks Committee gave an update on the new scoreboard at the village park and listed the donations received to date for that project.

Old Business:

- a. Mr. Barbeau discussed the arrangements for the Realtor Open House on 19-20 May 2010.
- b. The village board finally made a decision to propose a black and orange color scheme for the water tower to the project engineer and painting firm.

New Business:

a. The Corn Roast Weekend events were discussed. John Barbeau will ask the FdL Corvette Club if they would be interested in having a car show on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Steve and Becky Farrell are looking into the possibility of their snowmobile club having a display of snowmobiles and ATVs. The board is open to any other suggestions for activities that weekend. The village will once again have a village-wide rummage sale and the bulky waste pickup is scheduled for the following Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

b. The village board approved the committee rosters.

c. A motion was made by John Barbeau, seconded by Gary Collien, to appoint Patricia Brooks as the clerk, Amy Steinke as the temporary treasurer, Martin DeVries as the attorney, Associated Appraisal Consultants as the assessor, Kunkel Engineering as the building inspector, Gary Collien as the civil defense director, and Earl Norenberg as the varmint control officer and the weed commissioner. The motion carried 7-0.

d. The motion was made by Dennis Steinke, seconded by Tim Stoppleworth, to have John Barbeau, Darold Collien, and Patricia Brooks be the three persons identified on the Bank of Oakfield signature cards as being authorized to sign checks for the Village of Oakfield. The motion passed 7-0.

e. John Barbeau explained to the board that the sudden retirement of the former village clerk necessitated an adjustment to the clerk/treasurer transition plan. He further stated that the two positions were of equal importance to the village, although under normal circumstances, the clerk position required twice as many hours as the treasurer position. Mr. Barbeau then made a motion, seconded by Gary Collien, that Patricia Brooks be recognized immediately as the village clerk and be given the benefits which go with that position. Darold Collien reminded the board that the village's IRA contribution does not begin until after one year has passed. The clerk would then receive that entire year's contribution as a lump sum added to the IRA account. Ms. Brooks accepted that stipulation. The motion also included an adjustment to the pay scale for the clerk and treasurer positions, both receiving \$14.00 per hour for the remainder of fiscal year 2010. The motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Gary Collien, seconded by Dennis Steinke, to adjourn. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

John R. Barbeau  
Village President