

TOWN OF CORTLAND
Town Hall
59 S. Somonauk Road
Cortland, IL 60112
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Committee/Business Meeting
August 8, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Mayor Seyller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken by Deputy Clerk Rita Nielsen. Shown as present were Mayor Seyller and Trustees Brad Stone, Mike Siewierski, Chuck Lanning, Shown as absent were Trustee Doug Corson (arrived 7:55) and Susan Dockus. Other official present was Administrator Walter Magdziarz.

Agenda

Trustee Lanning moved and Trustee Siewierski seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Public Wishing to Speak

There was no one wishing to speak.

Committee of the Whole

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Magdziarz full report was in the packet. Areas of concern that he addressed were:

Chestnut Grove – the playground equipment that was purchased by Montalbano Homes more than three years ago was delivered to the Town. The Town agreed to store the playground equipment and obtained verbal permission from the Airport Manager to store the equipment in a barn on airport property. Other possible options for storage were discussed, but no definite alternative was agreed upon.

DSATS – A bike and pedestrian plan was presented at an open house in July. There were many Cortland residents that participated. Mr. Magdziarz will get copies for board distribution for the next COW meeting. There were very positive recommendations for linage between DeKalb and Cortland and he was surprised how much public interest there was beyond recreation, but for use in working and shopping. Also, a freight rail study was funded to provide analysis for the DeKalb area. Mr. Magdziarz reported that the Union Pacific line is a restricted access route and there would be great reluctance to have any switches that could have an effect on rail traffic. Realistically in order for Cortland to be considered for freight rail opportunities it would have to be a giant freight user.

TIF

Mr. Magdziarz distributed a notice of public meeting with map attached. The map is not final, just a starting point.

Department Reports

Mr. Magdziarz stated that all department reports were in the packet.

Trustee Stone offered to help when planning policies for special events.

Mr. Magdziarz stated that the Illinois Tollway Authority has scheduled a Public Hearing at the NIU Convocation Center for the their Proposed Tollway Capital Plan and Toll Increase on Friday, August 19, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Emerald Ash Borer Compliance Agreement

Mr. Magdziarz reported that the Town has been added to the Illinois Department of Agriculture's list of infected communities. The Town has an obligation to take corrective action and notify and advise the public. Mr. Magdziarz introduced Mr. Scott Shirmer, Emerald Ash Borer Program Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Agriculture who gave an overview of the origin, life cycle, characteristics and signs and symptoms as well as possible treatment alternatives of the Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Shirmer expressed how imperative it is that firewood not be transported and should only be purchased within the county and from a known source. There are state and federal quarantines in place that restricts the movement of ash logs, branches and other material in certain areas. The entire state of Illinois is under federal quarantine.

Trustee Corson arrived at 7:55.

Mr. Magdziarz reported that the Town will need to remove Green Ash trees from Town property as they die off over the next few years and develop a replacement program. Town staff is currently inventorying ash trees on Town property to get an accurate count in order to prepare tree removal and replacement budgets for future years. There are going to be challenges to the Town and property owners regarding treatment and possible removal of these trees.

The Compliance Agreement that the Town is being asked to sign is showing that the Town acknowledges that there are State and Federal regulations governing the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine zone boundaries and "regulated articles".

Mr. Magdziarz stated that he is asking for the consent of the Board to place the Agreement on the Consent Agenda for August 22 and authorizing the Mayor to sign. The consensus was to move forward with the Agreement on Aug. 22.

Comments/Concerns

Trustee Lanning asked how long it is going to take Mr. O'Donnell to get something going on the house he is building. Mr. Magdziarz said that as long as there is progress being made, he is not in violation of the permit. Mr. Magdziarz will ask ICCI to continue to check on the progress.

Trustee Barzso asked about the signs [on Rte 38] at Montalbano. Mr. Magdziarz said that everything is tied to the bankruptcy and no one can give an explanation as to why, but even the Royal Bank of Canada's funds are tied up. He will continue to check on the progress. Trustee Barzso asked if there was any information as to the condition of the grain bin area. Mr. Magdziarz said the owner of the property has been informed and they will be addressing concerns with their property manager. Trustee Barzso asked about a possible recycle program in the Town. Mayor Seyller responded that recycling is the property owners' responsibility if they choose to do so. Trustee Barzso asked about a back-up plan if the DeKalb Airport property is not available for our irrigation plans. Mayor Seyller stated that there has

been no indication that there will be any problems. When Trustee Barzso asked about the bubble at the treatment plant, Mr. Magdziarz said the water level was down to about 6-7 feet as of today and the bubble doesn't appear to be growing.

Trustee Stone reported that it is "business as usual" for Summer Fest. Trustee Lanning commented that he thought the \$4 price for beer is too high. Trustee Stone said he has only heard negative remarks regarding the price from one other person; the beer is served in 16 ounce cups, not 12. Trustee Lanning still believes the price is too high and should be left at the \$3 price of previous years.

Trustee Siewierski commented that the grass at Heatherfield is getting long.

Adjournment

Trustee Siewierski moved and Trustee Stone seconded a motion to adjourn. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Rita Nielsen
Deputy Clerk