TOWN OF CORTLAND
Town Hall
59 S. Somonauk Road
Cortland, IL 60112

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Town Board Meeting
Monday
June 13, 2016

7:00 P.M.

Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance/ Roll Call
Mayor Stokes called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by Deputy Clerk Rita Nielsen. Shown as present were Mayor Russ Stokes, Trustees Charmaine Fioretto, Mike Siewierski, Ben Haier, Brad Stone and Chuck Lanning. Trustee Doug Corson was absent. A quorum was present. Also present were Town Clerk Cheryl Aldis, Police Chief Dargis, and Attorney Kevin Buick.

Approval of Agenda
Trustee Lanning moved and Trustee Fioretto seconded a motion to approve the agenda.

Public Wishing to Speak
There was no one wishing to speak.

New Business for Discussion and Possible Action
Mayor Stokes presented, for appointment, Mark Hedrick and Erick Stansky as two new applicants for Planning Commission. Trustee Siewierski moved and Trustee Fioretto seconded a motion to accept the appointments of Mark Hedrick with a term to expire May 2017 and Erik Stransky with a term to expire May 2019 Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

Mr. Brad Lawson, Chairman of Planning Commission, reported that Mr. Frank Turza has moved from Cortland and submitted his resignation. The two new appointments bring the total members to five, leaving two openings.

Accept Annual Report of Cortland Community Library
Trustee Haier moved and Trustee Lanning seconded a motion to accept report. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Ashley Hartness Presentation – Proposal for Ice Skating Rink
Ms. Hartness, owner of All Around Pumping, presented a proposal to donate to the Town a skating rink to be located at Suppeland Park. This is an outdoor ice rink made by Iron Sleek and is 50'x80'. Ms. Hartness will purchase, install, and maintain the ice rink. She will use her employees and volunteers to install and maintain one time per week during the operation of the rink. Snow removal will not be part of the maintenance. Ms. Hartness said she is prepared to ask for donations from local residents and businesses to help with expenses for lighting and water. Mayor Stokes said that fund raising will not be necessary for electricity and water. He will talk with public works about lighting. A discussion regarding insurance risk if hockey is played as an organized sport ensued. Attorney Buick explained that the Town could not participate in organized or sponsored hockey games, but it did not necessarily need to be an excluded activity. The consensus from Trustees was to accept the donation and move forward with the donation. Attorney Buick will prepare an agreement to provide for rules and maintenance.

ICCI Presentation – Building Permit Fee Amendments/Ordinance
Mrs. Barb Dettmer was present to discuss recommended permit fee changes. Mrs. Dettmer gave examples of a 1500 sq. ft. ranch with full basement equaling 3000 sq. ft. and a remodel for single family development.

[Example of new fee schedule is in packet as submitted to the Clerk.] Trustee Siewierski stated that he is not ready to make a decision based on information given at this time. Trustees asked that a comparison chart of fees based on other municipalities of same size, with contracted services, and comparison of current and recommended fees and comparison with other municipalities that contract services. Clerk Aldis informed the board that staff is currently working on comparison chart. Amendments and ordinance will be brought back for consideration.

Authorization to apply for 2016 COPS Hiring Grant
Chief Dargis explained that this grant would allow for the hiring of a full-time police officer. The grant will pay for three years and the Town would have to continue position for three years for a total of six years.

Trustee Siewierski moved and Trustee Fioretto seconded a motion to approve authorization to apply for COPS Grant. Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

Job Description – Police Commander
Chief Dargis is requesting a commander position within the police department. If accepted, there is a need to amend page 2, number 6 to read minimum five (5) years supervisor experience required. Chief Dargis is not expecting to hire a sergeant at this time as he doesn't have anyone in the department that is trained to advance to that position in the near future. His goal is to have 24/7 coverage of hours within three years. His plan is to hire an experienced commander that will allow officers within the department to train for positions of advancement. Mayor Stokes explained that there is change across the country affecting police departments. He said, it's foolish to believe that you will not be held accountable for actions taken by your police department if they do not have the training and experience necessary to police. We also have to have a strong number two person in the police department that understands transparency and is prepared and able to act as the media person with the press.

Trustee Fioretto felt that the experience and education level for a commander position was overkill. She researched several communities and has not found another community this size that has a commander position, but she could see filling the sergeant position and thought that promoting within the department is a better way to go. Chief Dargis did not agree, but did say he would be willing to change the job description he has presented for a commander position to the sergeant position; however no one in the department could meet the qualifications. Trustee Lanning stated his belief that trustees should allow the department heads to come to the board with their needs to run the department. Trustee Haier stated that he too would like to see 24/7 coverage for the Town and believes this is the right way to start the process. Trustee Siewierski suggested the Chief look into more hours for administration so that he can be freed up for police calls. Trustee Siewierski believed, as did everyone else, that this was a very useful conversation and appreciated Chief Dargis' goals for the police department.

Trustee Lanning moved and Trustee Stone seconded a motion to approve the job description as amended to read 5 years supervisory experience required. Majority roll call vote carried the motion with Trustee Fioretto voting no.

Proposed Policy Amendment (Wage Scale - Attachment A of Personnel Handbook)
The proposed wage scale amendment is necessary from time to time to bring salary ranges current and to add a new position.

Trustee Fioretto suggested looking at the benefits for vacation time for new employees. She felt that new employees should be able to take a weeks vacation while employed in the first year. Clerk Aldis suggested that this be brought back to the board at a future date for discussion and possible action.

Trustee Siewierski moved and Trustee Haier seconded a motion to approve the Policy Amendment for the wage scale. Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

Intergovernmental Agreement for Police Jurisdiction between DeKalb County, City of Dekalb, Town of Cortland, City of Sycamore and NIU
Chief Dargis explained that this is simply a housekeeping measure for bordering communities for police services.
Trustee Stone moved and Trustee Fioretto seconded a motion to authorize Intergovernmental Agreement. Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

An Ordinance Granting a Class E Liquor License for Cortland's Summer Fest
Trustee Stone moved and Trustee Haier seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance Granting a Class E Liquor License for Summer Fest. Majority roll call vote carried the motion with Trustee Lanning voting no.

Approve an Application for Variance of Town Code Noise Ordinance 5-4-4 for Cortland's Summer Fest
Trustee Stone moved and Trustee Fioretto seconded a motion to approve the Application for Variance of Town Code 5-4-4 for Cortland Summer Fest.
Majority roll call vote carried the motion with Trustee Lanning voting no.

An Ordinance Establishing Prevailing Wage Rates
Trustee Siewierski moved and Trustee Haier seconded a motion to approve Prevailing Wage Ordinance. Majority roll call vote carried the motion with Trustee Stone voting no.

An Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Surplus Personal Property (~~2007~~ 2008 International Truck)
Trustee Lanning moved and Trustee Haier seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance Authorizing the sale of Surplus Property. [Upon review of title it was discovered that the vehicle was titled as a 2008 truck.]
Majority roll call vote carried the motion with Trustee Stone voting no.

Comments and Concern
Trustee Siewierski asked about weeds behind Prairiefield. Mayor Stokes will check with Mr. Kocher; however he believes they have already sprayed.

Trustees all agreed that due diligence was had tonight during a very useful conversation regrading police department commander position.

Trustee Lanning stated that everyone is trying to do what they believe is best for the Town.

President's Report
Mayor Stokes reported that the 35th Tour de Farms is June 25 and 26.

Mayor Stokes expressed his appreciation for Chief Dargis and how hard he is working to make Cortland's Police Department better and his positive vision for the future.

Executive Session was not held.

Adjournment
Trustee Siewierski moved and Trustee Fioretto seconded a motion to adjourn. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Nielsen
Deputy Clerk