TOWN OF CORTLAND
Town Hall
59 S. Somonauk Road
Cortland, IL 60112
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Town Board Meeting
Monday
August 8, 2016

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 Clerk Cheryl Aldis. Shown as present were Mayor Russ Stokes, Trustees Doug Corson (late arrival), Mike Siewierski, Brad Stone and Chuck Lanning, Fioretto and Haier. A quorum was present. Also present were Town Clerk Cheryl Aldis, Office Clerk Julie Abraham, Police Chief Lin Dargis, and Attorney Kevin Buick.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Lanning moved and Trustee Siewierski seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. Items A and B under New Business were reversed.

Public Wishing to Speak

There was no one present from the public to speak.

New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

Board Concurrence for hiring a full-time patrol officer

Chief Dargis addressed the Board regarding his proposal to hire a fourth full-time officer. Chief Dargis explained that with a fourth full-time officer the town will have the manpower to become a 24 hour service police department. When the Chief asked about 12-hour shifts versus 8-hour shifts he commented that the benefit of 12-hour shifts to the Town is the Town's assets are better used and the benefit to the officer is that they basically have every other weekend off. 12-hour shifts have become more prevalent throughout the departments. He also reported that part-time hours are becoming more difficult to fill for various reasons. Some departments no longer allow their officers to work part-time elsewhere and higher pay may be a reason they do not wish to use their time working elsewhere. When asked if this position would be filled by the COPS grant Chief Dargis reported that he hopes it would, however, we need to proceed as if this grant will not be awarded. Information should be known regarding grant status around the 20th of August. Trustee Lanning moved and Trustee Corson seconded a motion to approve a fourth full-time police patrolman position within the Cortland Police Department. Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

Discussion with Possible Action – Review Of Building Permit Fees

Mayor Stokes indicated that Bill and Barb Dettmer of ICCI had been invited to this meeting to review the building permit proposed fee changes. It was noted they were not present nor had he heard from them. The Mayor reported that the Board had been presented with the proposals at the June 13, 2016 Board meeting. Those proposals were compared with the existing rates and reviewed by the Board. The conclusion of the Board is stated in the following motion. Trustee Lanning moved that no alteration of the present codified rates be accepted as the Board feels the building fees are sufficient and adequate as they currently exist. The motion was seconded by Trustee Siewierski. Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

Comments/Concerns

Trustee Fioretto reported that she had requested signage and police presence on Prairiefield Ave as it has become used as a speedway. There is a bus stop area that has no stop sign as well as the park that children walk to and from. Signage options were quickly discussed. The idea of speed bumps in the area was quickly rejected as a hazard to town equipment. Mayor Stokes suggested a portable speed sign be located and placed in the area. Trustee Fioretto also asked about signage at Cortland Center Road as in notice to drives on Somonauk Road that Cortland Center Road is closed. Mayor Stokes felt the signs were as required by IDOT but would check the situation.

Trustee Stone stated that he had placed colorful flyers in the trustee's trays to let them know the activities for the Festival this weekend. He also asked for volunteers, 3-hour shifts doing whatever they felt comfortable doing. Contact Brad or Judy Butler to sign up.

Mr. Stone was discussing follow up with Trustee Haier regarding Redbox vending machines. Mr. Haier stated that he had learned the vending machines are generally placed in high traffic commercial areas. In order to apply for the machines the store management must complete the application. This is not something an individual or the Town could do. Mr. Haier stated he had seen them at other Dollar General Stores and did provide the information to the current local manager.

Trustee Lanning expressed his opinion regarding road weight limits and permitting processes for overweight vehicles. He had no specific information regarding fees but felt, if the Town should wish to do this, the fees should be specified for road maintenance purposes. Other option for generating road maintenance funds might be vehicle stickers. It was noted that this concept is not new to Cortland. It was enacted in the 1970's and allowed to expire at the sunset of the ordinance language. It was enacted at the time to generate revenue to pay Town bills.

President Report

Mayor Stokes reported that he had been notified that the Water/Wastewater Department had been awarded a grant for a turbo blower, the cost of which is approximately $78,500.
"The Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity IL ENERGY NOW programs appreciate your patience with the review and approval of the application Cortland previously submitted for the installation of high efficiency aeration blowers. The Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity has received a full FY17 budget for IL ENERGY NOW programs and therefore your application for incentives has been reviewed and approved."

Mayor Stokes reported that the property at 85 S Somonauk Road should soon be titled to the Town of Cortland. The Town authorized the purchase of the property through tax sale for this acquisition. Mayor Stokes stated that because of the shape of the lot and its size it would not be, by itself, able to support a commercial building. He is suggesting as time moves forward that the lot may be useful as a public parking lot until future development options present themselves. He has had a preliminary drawing for a parking lot completed and will bring that forward at a later date.

Mayor Stokes reported that he has received a notice from the IL Labor Commission that three full-time patrol officers have filed to join a union. Required notices have been posted in the Town and requested information is being gathers and forwarded. Keith Foster will be the Town's lead attorney for this subject.

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct a motion for adjournment was entered by Trustee Siewierski and seconded by Trustee Stone. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Aldis
Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Attest: _____