

**Service Committee
Minutes
February 3, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

Members present: Councilman John Clark, Councilman Bill Zoller, Councilman Paul Janson, Village Administrator Kate Rogers

Others present: Mayor Linda Clark, Councilman Giles Seith, Edie Benner, Greg Balbierz

Approval of the Minutes

- ❖ Motion to accept the Minutes of the January Service Committee meeting was made by Councilman Zoller and seconded by Councilman Janson. All voted aye

Citizens

DMRC upcoming grants and plans – Edie shared some of the plans that DMRC has in terms of upcoming grants. They currently are trying to apply for a First Energy grant for trees, shrubs, benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc. The grant has no match and they are asking for \$56,800. The proceeds would be used throughout Downtown with a focus on the South End. If the grant is successful, DMRC would consult with the appropriate committees to determine exactly what to purchase and where to place them. The committee members agreed to allow DMRC to submit this application.

Village Administrator's Report

Kate shared the quotes she had obtained for the replacement of the retaining wall behind the police station. She asked the committee members to recommend to Council that we choose the lowest bid which is for a 12" thick poured concrete wall from Stamm Contracting in the amount of \$3,700.

Kate also shared the quotes and information she had obtained for the purchase of a mini-excavator to be used on infrastructure projects throughout the Village. The option that she and her department would like to pursue is for a Cat excavator purchased through the state STS program. The total cost including accessories would be \$50,804. The committee members asked several questions about paying for the machine Councilman Zoller said that there is no doubt that we need the machine to accomplish our goals. Councilman Janson agreed that they would like to be able to make this purchase once they could verify the money is available. Councilman Clark said the purchase is a no-brainer if the Trust comes through with the requested 30% of the cost. All members agreed that the financing of the machine would be further investigated with Jenny and the Finance Committee. Councilman Janson asked if we could test the waters with the Trustee to see how he might be leaning. The Mayor said that she would contact him.

Review of Legislation

No new legislation

New Business

English property easements and future use – When Rich Iafelice contacted Charlie English about easements related to the DMRC trails grant Mr. English indicated that he would like to start a dialog with the Village about the future ownership of two of his properties including the train depot. The committee agreed that John and Linda would have an informal meeting with Charlie to discuss his thoughts before taking any further action.

Questions and wish list for Portage County utilities negotiation

Rich Lafelice and Jeff Lonzrick asked the committee to come up with a list of negotiating requests and absolutes to determine if the County is willing to continue with the exploration of taking over the water and sewer utilities.

The committee's discussions came up with the following thoughts:

1. Water drawn from the wells sold outside of the community should generate royalties to the Village.
2. Village to retain non-essential properties including access to the Glacial Esker Trail. Non-negotiable
3. A discussion of length of lease to be re-negotiated at some future date.
4. Freeze maximum rates for a period of time.
5. Municipal water and sewer usage can be metered but not charged up to a reasonable usage.

Old Business

Mowing contract for 2015 - Kate shared the quotes she had received to date for the 2015 mowing contract. R. C. Giel is once again the lowest although one other company had very similar prices on every section except the park. Kate expressed her concern that Bobby Giel's crew is often sloppy despite being repeatedly asked to be more careful. The committee suggested asking Bobby to come to the next meeting to discuss the contract and make him aware of our concerns in a formal setting. Councilman Clark suggested that perhaps going forward we could have a multi-year renewal option so we don't have to re-bid every year. It may also keep the contractor working hard to keep the business for the next year.

Thompson Trust list for the cemetery – The committee had already made preliminary recommendations for the Trust request list. The mowing contract is now confirmed to be the same price as last year. Additionally Kate shared that she would like to ask the Trust to pay for 30% of the cost of a mini-excavator or roughly \$15,000. She agreed to get the request list cleaned up to be discussed again at Finance and then finalized at Council in two weeks.

Last month in a discussion about paving projects it was suggested that a block of Second Street which has no official driveways be vacated rather than undergoing an expensive paving upgrade. We would have to then get permanent easements from the residents to access the utility lines that are under the existing roadway.

- ❖ Motion to move the proposal to vacate part of Second Street to Council was made by Councilman Janson and seconded by Councilman Zoller. All voted aye.

Anything else that may properly come before this committee

The mayor reported that she is still working with Time Warner Cable to get our Village public channel up and running again.

Adjournment

- ❖ Motion to adjourn at 7:36pm was made by Councilman Zoller and seconded by Councilman Janson. All voted aye.

Committee Chair John Clark

Village Administrator Kate Rogers