

Service Committee Meeting  
December 3rd, 2013 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

Pledge of Allegiance

**Roll Call:** Committee Members Bill Zoller, John Clark, Paul Janson

**Others present:** Mayor Linda Clark, Councilman Marty Hura, Village Administrator David Akerley, Administrative Services Officer Kate Rogers

- ◆ Motion to approve the November minutes made by John C. and seconded by Marty H. Paul abstained, all others voted aye.

**Village Administrator's Report:**

The Christmas wreaths are up and the mini-park is decorated thanks to the Mayor and the crew that Monica Groves put together. The hydrant replacement near Napa is going to be about \$1700 additional to move the pipe to where CT wants it for the sidewalk project. Dave needs to find the shut-off valves in order to make the change over. The hole needs to be benched out or borrow a trench box in order to make the switch over safely. The gas line is also a problem because it is right near where they need to work. We are installing heaters in the waste-water treatment plant. The new hires are working out really well. They are motivated and educated and working hard. The first snow removal event went pretty smoothly. The hydrants no longer have to be installed by January 4<sup>th</sup> because the House of Representatives changed their ruling on the requirements for the Safe Drinking Water Act. So now we are back to the April 4<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Paul asked about the new door dimensions for the Park Lodge. The ones he is looking into are 100% steel covered and they are \$274 for the single lock or \$279 for a double lock. We will re-measure the depth of the door-jams so those can be ordered.

**New Business:**

At the last DMRC meeting they mentioned that they would like to have the trails paved from Main Street to Peck and Main Street to Mennonite. They would like to submit a grant for this project. Rich said this would require easements on Mennonite and from the Benners and our total cost would be between \$45,000-\$60,000. The mayor suggested that the cost is not feasible at this time. Councilmen Janson, Clark, Hura and Zoller all agreed that this is not something we can pursue at this time. For the money it would cost we could be paving roads. Additionally maintenance would be a concern and continuing cost. DMRC will likely bring this up at the next council meeting for Council to discuss.

**Old Business:**

**EMA Assistance update** – Mayor Clark reported that Kate submitted the first round of bills to the EMA for re-imbusement. We submitted over \$11,000 of bills and expect a check for 75% of that within a couple of weeks.

The EMA approved all of the amendments on the paving and catch basins that we requested. We also now have until June 1<sup>st</sup> to get the paving done and basins. Dave described the repair on the catch basin near English Realty that is a big cost. This is because it needs to be re-graded and re-built.

We will do these repairs in stages so that we can get reimbursed in stages in order to continue the work. Jenny has a line item in the appropriations to allow us to pay for these projects before we get reimbursed for the 75%.

#### **Driveway Aprons and Tree Lawns – draft legislation**

Councilman Zoller reported that he has trouble with the sidewalk legislation already in place because of all of the past issues with contractors coming in and leaving the sidewalks a mess. He suggested that we could possibly do something like the trees with a 50/50 split or we could remedy them to start with and then enforce this going forward. As far as driveway aprons this is just one more thing to stick to the residents to maintain and he is not in favor of the change.

Councilman Janson suggested tabling the legislation and continue looking into it.

Dave said that in any other municipality the homeowners are required to maintain their sidewalks and driveway aprons.

Councilman Clark asked when the sidewalk legislation came into effect. It was in 1995. At the time the legislation came into effect the Village Administrator picked on a few people to get their sidewalks fixed.

Mayor Clark said she wants to discuss the driveway apron issue because she is concerned about future storm damage and knowing who is responsible for the clean-up.

Councilman Zoller said that storms are an act of God and we are not responsible but if a contractor comes in and does work to a gas or water line and interrupts the sidewalks it is his responsibility to repair the sidewalk.

Kate asked about the Codified section that requires council to make requests to homeowners each year by April to repair their sidewalks. Councilman Clark said that this used to be done each year but has not been continued. Councilman Zoller said that the planning committee took care of this. They would usually identify one or more areas of town to focus on for the year. The Mayor said that we either need to continue to enforce what is in the Codified or discuss an alternative. Councilman Janson said that he thought we should table this and continue to look into how to amend this section. It will take some time to look at what other Villages are doing as well as to discuss our own situation.

Kate pointed out that Michele suggested that the proposed legislation included language to say that homeowners needed to get permission before paving tree lawns. Councilman Clark said he is concerned with allowing anyone to pave their tree lawns because of the already big water problem we have in the Village.

Several Councilmen and the Mayor also discussed public parking and the tree lawns on Maple and Elm and elsewhere throughout the Village. In some cases these areas are growing back over with grass and have not been maintained as parking. This public parking should also be plowed even if it is not paved.

Another piece to this discussion should deal with leaf care. Many residents have been blowing their leaves into the street, tree lawn and/or catch basins. The police chief has been notifying residents that this needs to be taken care of.

The Mayor suggested that we need to make a moratorium on this section of the Codified Ordinances until there is a resolution.

**Codified Ordinance 941.14** – recommendations for Council before second reading

The service committee would like to recommend to Council that section (g) be removed.

The mayor reviewed the current ordinance stating that anyone who wants to use water that is not charged for sewer needs to apply in writing with the Village Administrator and give a valid reason. She asked if the committee would like to see that section left in Chapter 941.14. She reminded the group that we are losing revenue now because people call in or drop off scraps of paper that show their pool of landscaping uses of water. She gave her opinion that we are such a small community that we cannot afford to have deduct meters. Additionally she said that in the fall when people drain their pools this water should be going back into the sewer system anyway. Councilman Clark agreed that the EPA considers pool water to be treated water that is required to be returned to the sewer system.

Councilman Zoller said that this can be a problem if there is an emergency in the pool like a dropped liner that requires him to re-fill his pool entirely. The Mayor then asked about the people with pools who are putting 30 gallons into their pools a week. How is this different?

Councilman Janson says that he doesn't think that people should be allowed to have deduct meters for watering their lawn. He additionally said that for pools the resident should be given a 1-time per year allowance for a pool fill or possibly twice if there is a major emergency. The rest of the exceptions that have been allowed are ridiculous.

Councilman Clark asked about a resident, Lois Summerlin who currently has a deduct meter for her lawn. He said that she should be paying at least the \$5 per quarter on that meter and wondered if she is even saving enough to cover that cost.

Councilman Hura also said we should allow for a deduction for a pool fill once per year.

Mr. Akerley asked about the limit for the size of pool that would be granted this exception.

Councilman Janson said we need to come up with a minimum gallon exception. Mayor Clark and Councilman Zoller agreed.

The Mayor tried to sum up the views that had been put forth so far that we would allow a 1-time per year pool fill for pools larger than X gallons.

Councilman Zoller then brought up the issue of a large landscaping project again.

Councilman Clark interjected saying that if we go down that path we will have no choice but to raise rates again. He reminded that the purpose of the current sewer rates is to maintain the integrity of the sewer plant and infrastructure. He said it is not fair for residents to be subsidizing the pools of others.

Councilman Zoller again said that his main concern is if he has a big water emergency in his pool.

Councilman Hura asked what the difference in cost would be if water had to be hauled in by a bulk hauler. No one was sure about this cost.

Councilman Janson came back again to the fact that the EPA says that the treated pool water must eventually go back to the sewer. Councilman Clark again confirmed this point.

Councilman Zoller said that if there is an emergency the water has already gone into the ground anyway. Councilman Hura said that maybe we should fine people if this happens since it is not going where it should go.

Mayor Clark brought the discussion back around again to try to get some consensus that we would allow a 1-time per year pool fill for pools larger than X gallons. She said additionally suggested that these people must call the Village to come out to read the meter before and after the filling, which must happen all in one continuous effort rather than spread out over weeks. We could even have the filling take place in a certain time frame in May or June.

Councilmen Zoller and Hura agreed that there needs to be a minimum size. Mr. Hura suggested that maybe a 12' round pool that was 4' deep or less would be a good minimum size.

Mr. Akerley said that he doesn't want his department to have to police this constantly. He said that he has been annoyed with the people that he has already seen trying to take advantage of the system that has been unofficially used.

The Mayor said that if we can't come to some kind of agreement that we will just have to enforce the legislation as written.

There was some discussion about whether to make exceptions for instances like the storm and ensuing flood last year. Councilman Clark said that the owners have to accept some inherent maintenance risk when they choose to install a pool. Councilman Zoller maintained that it was inadequate curbs that were the problem in this case, which he admits he knew about before putting in the pool.

There was a discussion about how the two households with sewer deduct meters are currently billed. We need to verify how those water meters are set up to see if the billing is being done correctly. Is all of the water going through the main meter or is there a split so that the water is going into the two meters separately.

Councilmen Janson and Hura suggested that we recommend to Council that we do away with sewer deductions except for one time per year swimming pools of 15,000 gallons minimum. They suggested looking into the volume of several sizes of pools to get the minimum. Councilman Clark suggested 6000 gallons which represents a 12' round 8' deep.

The Mayor suggested everyone think about this and that we come up with the specifics of pool size and how to monitor it, etc. We can table this for now and re-visit it at the next service meeting.

### **Adjournment**

- ◆ Motion to adjourn made by Paul J. and seconded by John C. All voted aye.

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Service Committee Chair, Bill Zoller

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Admin Services Officer, Kate Rogers