

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE VILLAGE OF FORSYTH, IL**

**Held at the Village Hall
February 7, 2011**

Call to Order

Mayor Harold Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Upon call of the roll, the following Trustees were physically present:

Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.

Absent: None.

Also Physically Present

Darrell Woolums, Larry Coloni, Deputy Lyndsey Reedy, Deputy Timothy Houk, Rhonda Stewart, Jean Campbell, Charlyn Brautigam, Kathy Duncan, Heather Kimmons, Chuck Hunsinger, Kathy Mizer, Becky Newton, Cindy Deadrick Wolfer, Kerstin Trachtenberg, Andrea Zelhart, Lori Sturgill, Steve Furrow, Tim Nord, Karla Miller, Jeff Hendricks, William Waite, Don Van Lyssel, Ayn Owens, Jamie Davis

Adoption of Consent Agenda

*** Consideration of items listed on the Consent Agenda under the omnibus vote designation:*

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Village Board meeting held January 18, 2011.
2. Approval of Bill presented for payment, February 7, 2011. ***Invoices are always available for review upon request.*

Trustee Hubbard moved, and Trustee Allsup seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 0—None.

Motion declared carried by omnibus vote.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

LAW ENFORCEMENT—

- Deputy Reedy and Deputy Houk were present at the meeting to comment on recent activity in the Village officers have responded to. Items mentioned include:

- Deputy Houk introduced Deputy Reedy to Trustees and informed the Board that she has been assigned to Forsyth to replace Deputy Higar beginning February 1, 2011. Deputy Reedy has been working the

Village of Argenta for the past year, so is familiar with the area.

- Deputy Houk reported that officers responded to a lot of stranded motorists following the big snow storm that occurred last week. However, there were only a few auto accidents reported in all of Macon County as a result of the storm. Deputy Houk thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts in cleaning the roads in the Village. Officers were very appreciative of their hard work. Overall for the past two weeks, things have been pretty quiet in the Village.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS —

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons mentioned that in addition to her report, Trustees have been provided with written reports from the Librarian, Public Works Director, and Engineer to review. Mayor Gilbert asked if there were any questions concerning any of these reports.

Trustee Morr asked the Public Works Director if there was a plan in place for addressing pavement problems in different areas of the Village. He explained that residents living in the Schroll Pointe Estates Subdivision have called to express concerns with the streets in their neighborhood. The roads are cracking in several areas, and residents are troubled because the roads in this subdivision were just redone a few years ago. Residents want to know how these issues will be addressed.

Director, Larry Coloni replied that he does have a plan, but noted that details for any street improvements will be discussed at the Capital Improvement Planning Session scheduled for March 8, 2011. He mentioned that as weather permits, maintenance employees will be filling cracks in the streets, and performing any other preventive maintenance that may be needed. Larry stated that in his opinion, the winter weather has been rough on neighborhood streets.

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons reported that Deputy Marcus Rodgers came into Village Hall a couple of days after the snow storm to let her know just how very grateful officers were of the job the maintenance department did in cleaning the roads in the Village. Forsyth streets were good, but everywhere else in the County was a mess. Deputy Rodgers asked Heather to let the Board know how much the efforts were appreciated by law enforcement officers. Heather also thanked Larry and his department for all of their hard work. Trustees also voiced their gratitude to Larry and his staff.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 814, Variance to Exceed Setback off of West Weaver Road

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons referred to the proposed ordinance included in tonight's meeting packet. She explained that the variance for this property was granted a few weeks ago and this ordinance formalizes approval of that variance. Heather recommended it be approved.

Trustee Rasho moved, and Trustee Hubbard seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 814 - An ordinance approving zoning ordinance variance for property at 1126 W. Weaver Road, Forsyth, IL. Article III, Section 3.2 and 3.13 B (1) of the Zoning Ordinance. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.
Nays: 0—None.
Absent: 0—None.
Motion declared carried.

Park and Recreation Committee Request: Hickory Point Road-Oakland Avenue Bike Path Authorization to spend budgeted funds

Trustee Morr referred to the proposed bike path connection between Hickory Point Road and Oakland Avenue, and stated that in an effort to prepare for the Capital Improvement Planning session, he would like to ask for some professional help to determine the options available for building the path. He pointed out that this item has been talked about by Trustees before, and noted that \$5,000 was placed in this year's budget for this purpose. Trustee Morr commented that in his opinion, it is hard to plan, if you don't have enough information available on a particular project. He asked for authorization to spend \$5,000 in budgeted funds to request the Engineer identify options for building the bike path and costs associated for doing so. Trustee Morr commented that there is a preliminary plan in place, but nothing formal, and a preliminary estimate for building this connection is approximately \$500,000. He stated that it would be nice to have more information on this matter before talking about it during the Capital Planning meeting.

Following a lengthy discussion Trustee Morr moved, and Trustee Hubbard seconded, to authorize Staff to spend no more than \$5,000 for the Engineer to develop a plan for the bike path on the southwest side of the Village. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 2—Hubbard, Morr.
Nays: 4—Johnson, Reed, RASHO, Allsup.
Absent: 0—None.
Motion declared failed.

NEW BUSINESS

Funding Requests

Mayor Gilbert recognized representatives in the audience from several organizations who were invited to tonight's meeting to personally request the Board consider making a financial contribution to each specific group. He pointed out that if donations are approved, funding would come from two different sources, Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts and the General Fund. Hotel/Motel Tax receipts can only be spent on tourism efforts. Treasurer, Rhonda Stewart provided Trustees with a summary of contribution made last year to each organization.

Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts

- *Futures Charity Golf Tournament*
Cindy Deadrick Wolfer, was in attendance on behalf of the Tate and Lyle Players Championship (FUTURES Tournament). She thanked Trustees for the opportunity to be here tonight to talk more about the plans for the 2011 golf event. The tournament is scheduled from June 13-19, 2011 at the Hickory Point Golf Course. Cindy reported that the golf tournament brings approximately 144 talented professional to the community, and noted that the Futures is the only four-day golf championship on the LPGA Tour. She mentioned that the tournament brings more than \$500,000 in economic impact to the local community, which is significant to local businesses. This money includes hotel room nights, food, shopping, and also revenue generated from the staff, caddies, family and friends of the players who participate. Cindy asked the Board to consider a sponsorship package in the amount of \$15,000 this year. Last year the Village contributed \$10,000 and was the sponsor for the Corporate Village. Cindy also talked briefly about the benefits the Village would receive in return for helping sponsor the event. She agreed to talk further about this issue with the Administrator in an effort to address some of the concerns raised by Trustees regarding any benefits or perks the village might be given.

○ *Decatur Celebration*

Lori Sturgill, Producer and Director for the Decatur Celebration, was in attendance to address the Board on behalf of the organization. She thanked Trustees for inviting her tonight to talk about this year's plans and introduced Steve Furrow who was also present to talk about the 2011 Decatur Celebration. Steve is a Forsyth resident and also the President of the Board of Directors for the Celebration. Lori mentioned that this will be the 26th year for the street festival and the theme this year will be "*The Big Reunion*". Invites are being mailed to all of the graduates from the Decatur and Forsyth area high schools, Richland Community College, and Millikin University; focusing on classes from the 1980s and 1990s. Lori provided Trustees with an informational brochure that showed some of the highlights planned for this year's festival and also the economic impact for the area. She mentioned that hotel room nights for the festival weekend have doubled since 2004. Lori shared some of the new ideas planned for the weekend that include "hosting a *Family Fun Zone*, and a "*Wine Garden*, featuring Illinois wineries, patio seating and blues music. Lori asked Trustees to consider contributing \$15,000 to the event this year, and noted that it would be a \$6,000 increase over what was given last year.

○ *Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau*

Jeff Hendricks, Executive Director of the Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (DACVB) was in attendance to present this year's funding request for the organization. He provided Trustees with a brochure entitled the "*2011 Spring Awareness Campaign*". Jeff explained that the DACVB set several goals for this year's campaign. They include trying to raise the awareness of local citizens for the many things that visitors to the area can see and do, maintain existing events and attractions for the area, and add some new ones. Jeff mentioned that Decatur has six museums, six art galleries, three golf courses, four live performance theaters, antiques, historic homes, and many parks. Marketing efforts this year include asking both Mayors from Decatur and Forsyth to sign a joint proclamation, newspaper inserts, and guest appearances on radio talk shows, hospitality training workshops that are open to the public, incentives for site and attraction visits by Millikin students, and sponsored field trips for students. Jeff thanked the Board for its past support of the DACVB and asked Trustees to consider contributing \$60,000 again this year.

○ *Lakeside Music & Arts Festival*

No one was present to comment on this organization.

○ *Rodney Miller Triathlon*

Karla Miller was in attendance to address the Board on behalf of this organization and their request for funding support. The race will be held on Sunday, July 10, 2011, Nelson Park in Decatur. The event is held in memory of her husband, Rodney T. Miller who lost his life in the line of duty as an Illinois State Police Officer. The Triathlon event started in 2007 and attracts visitors from all over the country. Participants stay in Forsyth hotels, shop at the Mall, and eat at local restaurants. Karla described some of the plans for this year's event and reported that any financial support received from the Village would be used for advertising purposes. Karla asked for \$2,500, which is the same amount given last year. The event provides an opportunity for the entire community to come together in support of a worthwhile cause.

○ *Macon County Fair*

Ayn Owens was in attendance on behalf of the Macon County Fair. She mentioned that 2011 will be the 155th year for the Macon County Fair and is the second oldest one in the State. Ayn explained that one of the goals this year is not just to have *community involvement*, but want *community engagement*. Ayn asked the Board to consider contributing \$1,000 to the 2011 Fair. She talked about the different activities planned for this year's event and also described some of the other activities planned throughout the year that contribute financial support for the fair. They include renting out the

buildings for storage of boats, recreational vehicles, or other large items, to renting the grandstand for concerts or revivals. Ayn mentioned that she is flexible and tries to utilize as much of the fairground property as is possible.

General Fund

- *Economic Development Corporation*
No one was present to comment on this organization.

- *Decatur Park District*
Becky Newton and Jamie Davis were in attendance to speak on behalf of the Decatur Park District regarding the Special Recreation Program. Becky explained that the program was formed in 1996 by the Decatur Park District, cooperatively with the Village of Forsyth, and the Village of Mt. Zion. The program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities in the local area. Becky reported that approximately 25 Forsyth residents participated in the program last year. She mentioned that different programs are offered year-round including bingo, a dinner club, dances, day camps, and Special Olympics. Becky stated that one of the program's goals is to provide the same opportunities to individuals with disabilities, as are offered to individuals that are not disabled. She referred to information provided for Trustees to review. Specifically, Becky referred to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Decatur Park District and the Village and asked the Board to look it over and let her know if they have any questions about it. The last agreement signed between the two governmental entities was in 1996. Becky thanked Trustees for giving her the opportunity to come tonight and share a little about this program. She asked the Board to consider contributing \$5,000 this year to the Special Recreation Program. Becky also asked Trustees to consider entering into another agreement with the Decatur Park District similar to the provided.

- *Maroa/Forsyth Post Prom Contribution*
Andrea Zelhart was in attendance to make a funding request on behalf of the Maroa/Forsyth Post Prom Committee. She reported that the post prom event would be held at the High School this year, and any support the Village could provide to help offset costs would be appreciated. Andrea stated that, in her opinion, the post prom event provides a safe, alcohol, drug free environment for the kids participating. She thanked Trustees for considering her request.

- *Warrensburg/Latham Post Prom Contribution*
No one was present to comment on behalf of this committee.

Plan Commission Reports and Recommendations

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons reported that the Plan Commission met on Thursday, January 27, 2011 to consider five petitions for Special Use Permits. She suggested that each one be presented and considered separately before any action is taken on them. Heather referred to the minutes from the Plan Commission meeting, *Findings of Fact reports*, and other pertinent documentation concerning each request that were included in the meeting packets for Trustees to review.

- *Forsyth Antique Mall – Application for a Special Use Permit (Display of Outdoor Merchandise)*
Heather reported that the Plan Commission reviewed two different requests for the Forsyth Antique Mall, but would let petitioner Kathy Duncan elaborate on each one. However, the net results from the Plan Commission for the two issues considered was that no recommendation would be made to the Board, simply because the Plan Commission was unable to get four votes either in favor or against Ms. Duncan's requests. Heather stated that the Zoning Ordinance requires four concurring votes for recommending a Special Use Permit to the Board:

*“ARTICLE X
Section 10.13 G (5)*

- (5) *A concurring vote of a majority of those members of the Plan Commission present at the meeting, with a minimum of four (4) concurring votes, shall be required to recommend granting or denying an application for a special use.”*

Heather reported that Kathy presented two requests. The first issue considered (the garden area), three members voted in favor of granting the petition and one voted against it. On the second issue (the bistro area), two members voted in favor of granting the petition and two were opposed. Based on these results, the Board can act anew. Heather asked Kathy to present her requests to Trustees.

Kathy referred to the diagram provided to the Board showing specifics on what she has proposed in her petition for a Special Use Permit. She mentioned that Village Hall sent her a letter stating that the garden cart, garden swing, and three tables and chairs had to be either put into storage or request a Special Use Permit to leave the items outside. Kathy stated that she decided to draw up a plan for what she wanted and apply for the special Use Permit.

Kathy explained that she would like to build a three foot picket fence in the area between the two parking lots for the business in order to enclose what she would like to call a “*garden area*”. She added that plans also included bushes and nice landscaping to make it look nice. Within the fence, Kathy stated that she would like to include the garden swing, an antique washer made into a fountain, and other antique items. Kathy explained that having antiques on display for an antique shop is pretty normal, and noted that she plans to make the area attractive to visitors who come in. The intent is to display antiques, not to sell them. Displays show people what can be done with old things, rather than just discard them. On the front side (west side) of the building, Kathy mentioned that she plans to also build a pergola to help with utilities during the summer. The trees that are there right now will be transplanted into the garden area.

Kathy referred to the “*bistro*” area she would like to have on the south side of the building. Plans include placing three tables and chairs on the black top, just west of one of the overhead doors. The area will also be enclosed with a three foot fence around it with a gate on the west side to access the garden area. Kathy mentioned that she plans to build a pergola over the top to provide a shady, cool place for people to sit and relax during warm weather. She talked about trying to build a place for people to sit, relax, and visit, while drinking a cup of coffee or getting something to eat.

Following a lengthy discussion, Trustee Allsup moved, and Trustee Hubbard seconded, to approve the Special Use Permit, as presented and shown in the diagram submitted. Section 5.5 B (11). Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 0—None.

Motion declared carried.

○ *Aspen Dental – Application for a Special Use Permit (Monument Sign)*

Heather explained that Aspen Dental submitted a request to allow construction of an eight foot monument sign to encroach into the side yard setback. She pointed out that the sign was included on the plans approved previously by the Board, but since the sign will encroach into the setback, a Special Use Permit is needed. Heather mentioned that the developer was going to try and be present tonight, but due to a scheduling conflict, could not be here.

Heather reported that the Plan Commission voted unanimously to recommend the Special Use Permit be granted. Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Allsup seconded, to grant the Special Use Permit for Aspen Dental, as presented and recommended by the Plan Commission. Section 8.4 C (2) (ii) (b) (iii). Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.
Nays: 0—None.
Absent: 0—None.
Motion declared carried.

○ *Waites Dry Cleaners – Application for a Special Use Permit (Wall Sign)*

Heather explained that Waites Dry Cleaners has submitted a request to allow installation of a second wall sign for the business. The owner, Mr. Bill Waite has asked to install a new canopy on the north side of the building and add lettering to it to draw attention for his business.

Mr. Bill Waite was present his petition to the Board. He mentioned that he has leased part of the Landry Electric Building for the purpose of opening a dry cleaning business. Plans also include tuxedo rental, and alterations. Mr. Waite explained that he would like approval to replace the awning on the north side of the building and place his business logo on it. The new canopy will be maroon in color, and the lettering will be white. There is an awning on the building now, but it is worn, tattered and in need of replacing.

Heather reported that the Plan Commission voted unanimously to recommend the Special Use Permit be granted. Trustee Allsup moved, and Trustee Rasho seconded, to grant the Special Use Permit for Waite's Dry Cleaners, as presented and recommended by the Plan Commission. Section 8.4 C (1) (a) (ii). Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.
Nays: 0—None.
Absent: 0—None.
Motion declared carried.

○ *Power Wash Services/Aspen Dental – Application for a Special Use Permit (Off-Site Sign)*

Heather explained that the owner of the car wash business, Tim Nord has asked to retain the off-site pylon sign located on the Aspen Dental property. She explained that the Plan Commission vote resulted in four members voting to deny the petition, and zero voting of recommending the request be approved. Heather stated that Staff also recommends the petition be denied. She mentioned that Mr. Nord was here tonight to explain his request.

Tim asked Trustees if they had been given a copy of a list of properties in the Village that have been sold since 1993, and also a copy of Special Use Permits that have been granted in the Village between 1993 and 2000. Trustees replied that copies of both lists were included in meeting packets.

Tim mentioned that the existing pylon sign has been at its current location since 1992, and has always been a non-conforming sign. The sign has also been on a separate lot from where the car wash is located, but until the lot was sold to Aspen Dental, has always been owned by the same person. Tim mentioned that he tried to ask Staff for alternative ideas on what to do with the sign, other than just removing it. The Zoning Ordinance does not allow a business to have a monument sign unless it is either an office building or a restaurant. In summary, Tim pointed out that the Village has granted sign exceptions for other businesses in the Village, and asked the Board to allow him equal protection under the law.

Heather pointed out that the Zoning Ordinance states that when a parcel of land is sold, any non-conforming signage on that property should be terminated immediately. The new owner has 180 days from close of sale to bring the sign into compliance. She mentioned that when the plans were approved by the Board for Aspen Dental to build their office on this lot, the Village became aware of the sale. Once the sale was completed, according to the Zoning Ordinance, Mr. Nord's existing pylon sign should have been removed. The property where the sign is located no longer belongs to Mr. Nord, and the non-conforming sign is now defined as an off-site sign. The Zoning Ordinance is very clear and believes it is the intent of Article VIII C, to prohibit all off-site advertising of any kind, whatsoever. Heather stated that she believes this is what the Plan Commission based their recommendation on. The ordinance is very clear. If the intent is to prohibit off-site signs, then this is an opportunity to address this one now, regardless of what has happened in the past.

Tim referred to a letter he submitted to the Village in 2008 regarding a Special Use Permit he was requesting. He read the following to Trustees:

"February 1, 2008

Tim Nord the owner of Power Wash Services, located at 138 Highland Dr., requests a special use permit to allow for the change of the printed copy on the lighted sign and add up to 8' wide and 4' tall sign added to current sign post on the owners lot east of the car wash (tax ID number 07-07-23-103-009). Tim Nord is also requesting this permit allow for the continuation of the off-site use of this sign to be used for the property located to the east (currently) Power Wash Services, tax ID number 07-07-23-102-006). This permit is to stay with sign if and when two mentioned lots change ownership. To allow for the visibility of the lot farthest from Rt. 51." The letter was signed by Tim Nord.

In the June 2, 2008 Village Board meeting minutes, the Board did approve a Special Use Permit for Mr. Nord. However, approval did not address the statement in Mr. Nord's letter concerning approval to allow the sign to remain is and when the property is sold.

*"Approval of Ordinance No. 748: Special Use Permit for Power Wash Services
Allsup moved, and Johnson seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 748: Granting a Special Use Permit for Power Wash Services located at 138 Highland Drive. The permit granted is to allow the petitioner to continue the use of the off-site free standing sign on the vacant lot adjacent to and west of the lot containing the car wash building. The petitioner will be permitted to change the printed copy on the sign to match the wall signage on the side of the car wash building. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:*

Yeas: 5—Rasho, Johnson, Allsup, Reed, Van Lyssel.

Nays: 0—None.

Absent: 1—Horve.

Motion declared carried."

Mayor Gilbert mentioned that he believes that every time this sign has been discussed, it was always the intent of the Village that the sign would have to be addressed if the lot was sold. Trustees talked about possible options that may be available for Mr. Nord to address the sign issue, and also ways that a compromise may be reached. However, nothing was agreed to. Trustees suggested that Mr. Nord consider some of the alternatives discussed.

Following a lengthy discussion Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Rasho seconded, to accept the Plan Commission's recommendation to deny the Special Use Permit for the Power Wash Services and Aspen Dental Office to retain the off-site pylon sign

Tim asked that his petition be withdrawn to allow time for him to speak with legal counsel. No action was taken by the Board.

o *Power Wash Services - Application for a Special Use Permit (Wall Signs)*

Heather explained that Tim Nord has also request approval to install an instructional wall sign above the automatic car wash bay. The Plan Commission voted three in favor of granting the request and one member voted against it. The vote resulted in no recommendation to present to the Board. She asked Tim to elaborate.

Tim explained that he initially thought the sign he was asking for would be classified as "directional signs". However, after speaking with the Building Inspector, he was told that the new signs would need a Special Use Permit. Tim provided a picture of the proposed signage, and stated that the signs assist customers who want to use the automatic wash understand how it works. He mentioned that when a motorist approaches the automatic bay, they cannot always see the directions on the payment kiosk outside of their vehicle.

Trustee Hubbard moved, and Trustee Reed seconded, to approve the Special Use Permit for Power Wash Services. Approval is for the installation of two wall signs for the automatic car wash bay for the business. One sign will be placed above the bay door and the other placed on the wall to the left of the bay. Section 8.4 C (1) (a). Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.
Nays: 0—None.
Absent: 0—None.
Motion declared carried.

Appointment of Alternate Member to Parks and Recreation Committee

Trustee Morr moved, and Trustee Allsup seconded, to appoint Bernadette Birkholtz to the Parks and Recreation Committee, to serve as an alternate member. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.
Nays: 0—None.
Absent: 0—None.
Motion declared carried.

Activities and Events Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee Johnson reported that committee members have selected "*Building Dreams*" for this year's theme for the Forsyth Family Fest scheduled for the weekend of June 17-19, 2011. She asked if Trustees had any problems with this selection. Trustees expressed no opposition to the theme chosen.

Trustee Johnson also referred to copies of proposed contracts for this year's Family Fest. Contracts presented include the fireworks, tents, carnival rides, and entertainment. She mentioned that the fireworks, tents, and rides are at the same rate as the Village was charged last year for these services. The entertainment for 2011 will be provided by a local group, *Rock of Ages*, at a rate of \$1,400. Trustee Johnson pointed out that this amount is quite a bit less than what other vendors have charged in the past.

Trustee Johnson moved, and Trustee Rasho seconded, to authorize Staff to execute the necessary contracts in order to reserve the talent and supplies for this year's Forsyth Family Fest, as were presented. They include:

Clay County Amusements	\$10,000
Champaign County Tents	\$3,918.70
Central States Fireworks	\$7,500
Rock of Ages Entertainment	\$1,400

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.
Nays: 0—None.
Absent: 0—None
Motion declared carried.

Ordinance No. 815, Amending Sewer Service Billing Due Date

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons referred to the proposed ordinance presented for consideration. She explained that following Board approval for changing the due date for water service, she discovered the sewer service date was not included in the previous ordinance. This ordinance addresses the sewer service billing due date.

Trustee Reed moved, and Trustee Hubbard seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 815 - An ordinance amending the due date for sewer bills and provides all utility bills will be due by 5:00 p.m. on the 20th of each month. Upon a call of the roll, the vote was:

Yeas: 6—Johnson, Hubbard, Reed, Rasho, Allsup, Morr.
Nays: 0—None.
Absent: 0—None
Motion declared carried.

Motor Fuel Tax Audit Presentation

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons referred to a copy of the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Audit, for Calendar Year 2009, which was presented for review. She explained that the audit covers the receipts and disbursements of Village MFT funds. Heather pointed out that although the audit is required to be presented to the Board for review, no further action is needed other than to place the report on file as a permanent record.

Discussion/Evaluation of Standing Advisory Committees

Mayor Gilbert commented that before Trustees begin talking about this item, he would like to make a few comments concerning the committees and their chairmanship. He mentioned that in his opinion, everyone has done a good job with their committees for the past two years. Mayor Gilbert stated that as Mayor, he would expect to reappoint each Trustee to chair the same committee as they have, unless someone would like to change. In that event, Mayor Gilbert asked Trustees to talk with him about this. He pointed out that since Trustee Allsup is not seeking re-election, Trustee Elect Kerstin Trachtenberg would be appointed to take on the responsibility of chairing the Health and Safety Committee.

Trustee Rasho referred to comments made by the Village Administrator in her written report and other notes concerning committees, and expressed his support for the suggestions made. Specifically, Heather questioned the usefulness of some of the advisory committees and suggested that at some point, some of the standing committees be eliminated, and then establish a few special event committees. Trustee Rasho

remarked that in his opinion, Heather makes a compelling case to support her thoughts. She also stated that it appears to her, that some of the committees have become essentially “*special interest*” groups. Trustee Rasho commented that he believes another word that could be used to describe the committees would be “*advocacy group*”. Members agree to volunteer to serve on a committee as a way to push their own personal agenda.

Trustee Johnson stated that in her opinion, it is the responsibility of Trustees to make decisions, not the committees. Trustees are elected by the citizens of Forsyth, and have the responsibility to represent them.

Trustee Allsup commented that he believes some of the committees only provide another level of bureaucracy. He suggested all of them be eliminated and wipe the slate clean. Trustee Allsup suggested the Board start over and determine what committees are needed and how they work.

Trustee Rasho stated that personally he is at the point that he is not going to attend any more of these meetings. He emphasized that he does not see a purpose in doing so.

Trustee Johnson voiced her agreement with comments made. She pointed out that she has seen many committees talk about a particular item for meeting after meeting, and in the end, come up with nothing.

Mayor Gilbert mentioned that he has been involved in the committee system for a long time. He stated that in his opinion, if the committees are working correctly, the discussion on an agenda item at the Trustee’s meeting should be brief.

Trustee Reed commented that if the committees are eliminated, Trustees may be spending a lot more time at Board meetings. Trustee Hubbard expressed the same opinion. He commented that if the Finance Committee was terminated, Trustees would have to spend several hours each year review the budget. Trustee Hubbard did voice his support in changing some of the standing advisory committees to committees that meet on an as needed basis.

Trustees talked about different ideas at length. They agreed to look at what the Administrator has suggested, think about different ideas, and then come back at a later time to discuss it further. Heather suggested an article be placed in the Village Vision about this, and ask for input from residents on the matter. Trustees agreed.

Summer Recreation Program

Village Administrator Heather Kimmons mentioned that she took this item to the Parks and Recreation Committee for discussion at the request of the Board. Members agreed that there hasn’t been any oversight for the program, but also agreed that expectations were never made clear to those in charge of the program. The committee asked that Heather speak with the Program Director about it, talk about what could be done to cut costs, and ideas on how to make the program run more efficiently. Copies of records pertaining to the program were included in meeting packets for review. Heather explained that following her discussion with the director, and talking with some of the Trustees about it, this item was placed on tonight’s agenda for further discussion and input.

Heather stated that it appears after reviewing the program, the largest expense is personnel costs. Currently, ten people are hired to run a seven-week annual summer park program. The Director, Angie Woodhall makes an average of \$62.00 per hour, the Co-Director Mike Poe, is paid approximately \$42.00 per hour. The rest of the staff (high school workers), make \$8.25 per hour. The total spent on wages last year was about \$18,000.

Heather reported that Angie does appear willing to work with her to make some changes this year to improve the program provided and hopefully lose less money on it. She suggested that Angie plan for holding a morning only program, and provide a more “back-to-the-basics” approach. Heather also suggested that she would like to concentrate on keeping children busy and interested in the community, enjoying our parks and bike trails, as opposed to going outside of the Village for activities. Another item discussed was for Heather to visit the park at least once a week to observe what is going on, keeping better records of those attending the different activities, and outlay clearer rules to everyone involved. Heather mentioned that the only thing she did not discuss with Angie, was salary. She asked for direction from the Board on how to proceed.

Trustees talked about this item at length. Trustees agreed that the Administrator should define the program and how it operates. Trustee Johnson stated that in her opinion, taxpayer money has been misused. She suggested the program be dissolved and then start over.

Mayor Gilbert stated out that in his opinion, it is important to have the program. However, he did agree there was room for improvement in it.

There was a consensus from Trustees for the Administrator to continue evaluating the program and explore options for it. Heather also suggested that Angie attend a future meeting to answer questions Trustees might have.

Adjournment

Trustee Allsup moved, and Trustee Hubbard seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. on voice vote.

By: _____
Village Clerk