**Minutes**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Monday September 19th, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

**VILLAGE OF PORT BYRON IL**

The Village Board Meeting was called to order by Mayor Barb Cray at 6:00 p.m. on

Monday September 19th, 2022. Trustees present

**ROLL CALL / ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Roll Call #1:** **Present: Trustees Gerry Meade, Brian Bitler, Bo Mathis, Jesse Clark, Tami Marsden**

**Late: None**

**Absent: Oney  
Also Present:**

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**Gallery Comments**

Bruce Peterson read a statement – It has been brought to my attention, one, that the mayor has on her own has protailed MSA Engineering from submitted the downtown redevelopment grant. That application was due in September and that deadline has come and gone without any action taken by the Village and MSA Engineering. I don’t know if any of you trustees are aware of that. The Village has invested over $130, 000 into this federal grant. $92,000 from the federal government & 28,000 to $30,000 from the Village. Public hearings, discussion and surveys have been ongoing since 2014. The Village board approved the expenditure of funds for this grant. The mayor does not have the authority to suspend Village applications once the board has approved the appropriations of funds. Only you on the board have that authority. You can nix those applications, but the mayor on herself does not have that prerogative. The same obstructions have occurred by the mayor in regard to the federal grant for unserved Sewer funds. This is a 100% funding from the federal government for the construction of the unserved neighborhoods, should we be approved. Surveys were sent and soil borings were done, and the application is ready to go. That too was blocked, and bot brought to your attention to proceed. We were selected by the EPA for this unsewered grant as we meet the basic criteria and have the preliminary studies. The board has spent over $18,000 on this application. No discussion at the IRDC meeting or Village board. This too is improper. This is a board discission. You appropriated the engineering firm to proceed with this. Its on your Capital Improvement program. And the Mayor does not have the prerogative, at her whim, to nix this application process. The mayor has curtailed negotiations with Black Hawk Bank with the purchase of the old bank building and converting the property into parking. Again, no public or committee discussion, only the mayor. Keep in mind the only communication with the public is and 81/2 and11 sheet of paper out here saying that there is meeting agendas pisted no longer posted online, no longer have ZOOM meetings. And I guess we need answers. Gerry Meade and I have spent 12 to 14 years working on a Downtown Redevelopment Plan. My neighbors are still using Port a Potties and bottled water. And those applications were ready to go. And why have they been curtailed. It’s not the mayor’s prerogative, it’s you the board members need to decide what you want this Village to be.

Mayor Cray responded that the agendas are on the webpage as well on the front of building. The Unsewered grant, we did apply for it, we did get it, and that what paid for the surveys and soil borings. Originally, we were approved for $19,000 and then we were awarded extra. We have applied for anything we can access at this point in time. It s not a choice if we did or did not, there is nothing open. The ITEP grant was applied for 4 years ago, for the downtown only 80% of the allowable projects can be covered by the grant. And 50% of the power lines underground. The total cost of that grant was 4.5 million. We could be approved up to 2 million. Which means the Village has to come up with 2.5 million dollars. At this point in time, I feel that our water is a higher priority, Bruce Peterson started to interrupt. I did talk to the trustees and MSA as well. Applying for the grant does not rule us out for apply for the grant forever. Its 10 years that we can apply in 2 years biannual cycles. In 2 years when it opens again, we will have a much better idea of where we are financially as a municipality. But to come up with 2.5 million dollars for the downtown streetscape out of our own money by borrowing money is not a fiscally responsible way to approach anything. Bruce asked in=f the board voted. Barb said the board did not need to vote; it was a matter to apply for something. Bruce said Barb should bring it to the board, and that we have budgeted TIF funds for it. Barb stated that we do not have budgeted TIF funds for it. All TIF funds we have are going to the Rt 84 project. Bruce stated that this is a board decision. And that this water project is a whole different discussion. There are 5 of you on the board who have water and you are taking downtown funds so that you don’t have to pay for repairs. The deadline is gone. How many of the board here knows what has transpired of these applications. Trustee Clark stated that Information was given at IRDC meetings, and board meetings. Trustee Bitler spoke that when the TIF was started it was for infrastructure, water, sewer and just like in life when you budget things, other things come up that you have to deal. We have to deal with the water before we beautify the downtown. Its fine if you want to do it but there’re other things that you have to do. And water is definitely the big one. I agree with the mayor, as a resident I don’t want you sending 2 million dollars downtown to make it look pretty. People should have good drinking water. Bruce asked if it was pertinent to take out of TIF funds. Trustee Bitler stated he believed that’s what TIF funds were created for, sewer and water to get up to what it should be. I count on the mayor to look after our money, to make sure we are pending it where it should be spent. Water has got to take priority. I know you have spent a lot of time and effort, but things come up.

**A. PUBLIC INFORMATION/FINANCE COMMITTEES**

**1. VILLAGE FINANCE WAYNE ONEY**

a. 2021-2022 Audit Review – Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Company

Jim Taylor went over the details of the audit and asked if there were any questions.

Trustee Meade made a motion to approve the audit from Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Co, Seconded by Trustee Bitler

Roll Call #2: Ayes: Meade, Bitler, Mathis, Clark, Marsden

Nays: None

Absent: Oney

Mayor Cray declared the motion passed.

**2. TIF**

a. Motion to approve removing Tami Marsden from the TIF Ordinance TIF221609

Mayor Cray stated that because Trustee Marsden is on the board, she needs to be removed from the TIF District to vote on TIF matters.

Trustee Mathis made a motion to approve the removing Tami Marsden from the TIF, Ordinance TIF221609, Seconded by Trustee Meade

Roll Call #3: Ayes: Meade, Bitler, Mathis, Clark

Nays: None

Absent: Oney

Abstained: Marsden

Mayor Cray declared the motion passed.

**3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAMI MARSDEN**

Trustee Marsden stated that they are working on Octoberfest. They have 2 bands this year and are having punch cards for prizes. The library is having some events for kids. Sending letters out to businesses and residents. Have December 9th set for the Christmas Walk.

**4. IRDC COMMITTEE/MSA WAYNE ONEY/JARED FLUHR**

Nothing to Report

**5. PLANNING/ZONING COMMITTEE** **GERRY MEADE**

a. Motion to approve P & Z Minutes from 060822 & 081022

Trustee Meade stated they had a very productive meeting with Bi State. To keep on schedule, they plan to have two meetings in November and December.

**6.** **PERSONNEL BRIAN BITLER**

Nothing to Report

**7. TUG FEST**

Tammy Knapp spoke that Chris and Alan did a great job on grounds for Tug Fest. Mayor Cray stated that Don also did a lot of work. She stated that next year is her last year and that they will need people to step up going forward.

Trustee Bitler asked Tammy that golf carts that are allowed in the Tug Fest area are only the ones that the committee is using, and Tammy said yes. Trustee Bitler said that the complaint from John Chambrian was not valid then as his golf cart was not allowed.

**PUBLIC WORKS**  **DON LOY**

1. **PUBLIC WORKS (RECYCLING/REFUSE, BLDG. & GROUNDS/STREETS Brian Bitler / Bo Mathis**

* 1. Approval of Quote from Wheeler for $7,968.40 to replace boards on Bike Path Bridge on North End of path

Don Loy stated that they had replaced the boards on the south end bridge and the north end bridge needs replaced. These are specially treated boards because they are over a waterway that goes into the river.

Trustee Mathis made a motion to approve the quote for Wheeler for $7968.40, Seconded by Trustee Marden

Roll Call #4: Ayes: Meade, Bitler, Mathis, Clark, Marsden

Nays: None

Absent: Oney

Mayor Cray declared the motion passed.

* 1. Approval to spend up to $40,000 on street repairs

Mayor Cray stated that we have money set aside for street repairs and we will need to approve expenditures from invoices. Don Loy stated he wanted to do most of the work himself after mowing is done. Discussion was had that it would not exceed $20,000 to Tri City Blacktop.

Trustee Bitler made a motion to not exceed $20,000 to Tri City Blacktop, Seconded by Trustee Clark

Roll Call #5: Ayes: Meade, Bitler, Mathis, Clark, Marsden

Nays: None

Absent: Oney

Mayor Cray declared the motion passed.

**2. WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE BO MATHIS/JESSE CLARK**

* 1. Approval of quote from Nelson Tree for $2,200.00 (Cherry St Ct)

Don Loy stated this is for a tree on the property of Cortez when they repaired the water shut off, the tree was damaged, and this is to take down and Maintenance will clean up.

Trustee Meade made a motion to approve quote from Nelson Tree for $2,200.00, Seconded by Trustee Mathis

Roll Call #6: Ayes: Meade, Bitler, Mathis, Clark, Marsden

Nays: None

Absent: Oney

Mayor Cray declared the motion passed.

**3. CEMETERY GERRY MEADE**

Nothing to Report

4. **ADMINISTRATIVE**   **BARB CRAY**

a. Minutes from 081522, 090622 Board Meeting(C/A Item A)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***ITEM*** | ***Action*** | ***Description*** |
| A | Approval | Minutes from 081522 090622 Board Meeting |
| B | Approval | Minutes from P & Z 060822 081022 |
| C | Receive | RI County Sheriff Report August 2022 |
| D | Receive | RCFPD August 2022 Report |

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Mathis made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Seconded by Trustee Marsden

Roll Call #7: Ayes: Meade, Bitler, Mathis, Clark, Marsden

Nays: None

Absent: Oney

Mayor Cray declared the motion passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing

**OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing

**Gallery-Questions, Comments**

Bruce Peterson asked about the payout for the grant for the solar panels, is that forthcoming and when do we expect it. Mayor Cray said Trustee Oney is working on and he is not here to update.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Cray stated Bulk pick up is Sept 30 and Oct 1. Have your items out Thursday Sept 29. There are restricted items. Also, October 10th is a holiday and the office will be closed.

**ADJOURN**

**Trustee Mathis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Marsden**

**Roll Call #8: Ayes: Meade, Bitler, Mathis, Clark, Marsden**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Oney**

**Mayor Barb Cray declared the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.**

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Approval Date Mayor – Barb Cray

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Clerk – Jamie Fritch