



Village of Trout Valley Board Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Trout Valley, Illinois, was held on June 9, 2020 via Zoom. Notice of the meeting and the agenda were posted at two prominent places in the Village of Trout Valley.

President Robert Baker called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Trustees present: Robert Antrim, Walter Graf (late arrival), David Hall, David Peterson, Kristin Purtill and Ann Somers. Also present were, Clerk Tonia Gonzalez, Comptroller Rick Haning and Counsel James Kelly from Matuszewich & Kelly, LLP.

President Baker welcomed new guests and explained the Zoom meeting protocols. He thanked all who participated in the “Welcome Home” event for Katie Bartlett, following her return from the hospital.

President Baker requested the following motion, which was proposed by Trustee Purtill and seconded by Trustee Somers:

“The April 13, 2020 meeting minutes be approved, with changes to section 4.1”

Voting Aye: Trustees Antrim, Hall, Peterson, Purtill and Somers

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

President Baker requested the following motion, which was proposed by Trustee Hall and seconded by Trustee Purtill:

“The May 8, 2020 Emergency meeting minutes be approved, with changes to section 3.1”

Voting Aye: Trustees Antrim, Hall, Peterson, Purtill and Somers

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

3.0 Public Participation

New resident Phil Wnek (20 Marryat Road) informed the board of stormwater moving debris onto his and his neighbor’s yard during recent rainstorms. The debris also affects his septic field. President Baker stated that the Village recognizes this issue along with flooding along Cahill Rd. & pasture and is on the current agenda.

Brian Stitle expressed concerns about the roping used to protect the new trees planted near the horse pasture. He felt the horses could get tangled in the ropes and encouraged discussions with the Trout Valley Riding Club prior to any future projects that could affect the horses.

Phil Stanko, Cary Park District Representative, reported that the dog park & trails are open. Park playgrounds and most park district facility are closed. Pool may not open in 2020 and they are continuing to monitor state updates re Covid19. President Baker asked Mr. Stanko to forward a copy of the Illinois Dept. of Health Guidelines. Mr. Stanko will also keep the Village board informed of any

discussions being held regarding utilization of the Cary Police building. Park district website will post updates as they occur.

5.1 New Business – Scholarship Winner

President Baker introduced Julia Marchioretto as the 2020 Village of Trout Valley Scholarship winner. Her volunteer work with special needs children, influenced her decision to study Special Education at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. Her full essay is posted on the Trout Valley website. Congratulations Julia!!

4.0 Old Business

4.1 Village Treasurer

President Baker received two inquiries for the Treasurer position. He will continue to solicit potential candidates to replace Comptroller Haning who is stepping down in August.

4.2 Trout Valley Road Project

President Baker requested an update on the Pinnacle Engineering study conducted due to two sinkholes that developed on Trout Valley Road. Trustee Peterson is working with Mr. Brian Johnson of Pinnacle Engineering. Mr. Johnson reviewed the 2008 & recent videos of the pipe under the road. He felt the pipes are undersized for the amount of water coming thru and need to be replaced at least underneath the road. Mr. Johnson will prepare a firm cost estimate in the next few weeks, with calculations based on a 10 year event. President Baker felt the Village should take the report and obtain at least three bids on the work needed, assuming the Village will fund the project. Trustee Peterson will be in search of a grant writer to pursue potential grant funding for the project.

4.3 Stormwater Update

The pipe under Trout Valley Road needs to be repaired before focusing on any additional stormwater issues. The stormwater improvements in the area of Willet Way and River Road created a settling basin for solids as part of the \$35k project to help prevent debris. Much of the debris currently traveling during flooding is the gravel placed by the previous owner of 20 Marryat. Trustee Peterson will have the silt trap on Willet Way cleaned and this should help with the overflow.

4.4 Village Security Gate at Country Commons

Trustee Peterson wants to place the gate back up at the road that leads to the golf course, due to a large number of non-residents entering Trout Valley. He also felt that any vandalism to the gate should be prosecuted. President Baker stated the Village has always deferred to the TVA regarding the gate and the gate was originally put up at the direction of the TVA. Trustee Peterson will approach this issue with the TVA.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Scholarship Winner

Discussed prior to Old Business

5.2 Charlie Coventry Passing

Former longtime resident Charlie Coventry passed away. He is credited with the development & maintenance of the Trout Valley baseball field and coached baseball teams there for many years. He was also President of the Trout Valley Tennis club for four years. Trustee Purtill wants to place a small plaque at the base of a tree recently painted at the baseball field. This would be similar to those in the Fen at an approximate cost of \$50 plus the post holder. President Baker will prepare the write up for the sign.

5.3 Pride Month

President Baker requested the Village recognize June as Pride Month in the Village of Trout Valley. A

request was submitted by the McHenry County National Organization for Women. Discussions were held regarding the proposal.

President Baker requested the following motion, which was proposed by Trustee Purtill and seconded by Trustee Graf:

“June 2020 be recognized as Pride Month in the Village of Trout Valley, in an effort to battle prejudice and promote inclusion”

Voting Aye: Trustees Antrim, Graf and Purtill. President Baker voted due to split vote.

Voting Nay: Trustees Peterson and Somers. Abstained: Trustee Hall.

Motion carried.

5.4 Com Ed Update

Com Ed approached a Trout Valley homeowner about removing a tree as part of their Winter pruning. It was felt the tree could fall & be a safety hazard, interfering with a power line. Adam Klein of the Care of Trees declared the tree to be in good condition. ComEd will relocate the powerline at no cost. Mr. Klein felt Trout Valley needs a stronger tree ordinance. President Baker felt Suzanna Strangmeier, Com Ed representative was great in assisting Trout Valley with this issue and was willing to work with both sides. He also thanked the Forestry Board for their work to save the tree and asked them to work on enhancing the tree ordinance.

5.5 Approval of Christmas Decorations/Lights Invoice

President Baker explained the agreement in previous years between the TVA & Village over payment for Christmas lights and the required electrical needed. Discussion held regarding a bid process & future agreement with the TVA moving forward.

President Baker requested the following motion, which was proposed by Trustee Somers and seconded by Trustee Purtill:

“Reimburse the TVA \$1.96k for the electrical work required for the Christmas lighting.”

Voting Aye: Trustees Antrim, Graf, Hall, Purtill and Somers.

Voting Nay: Trustee Peterson. Motion carried.

5.6 Private Building Inspector

In the current IGA with the County, they do not enforce permit violations on behalf of Trout Valley. TVA currently must give prior approval through the Building Committee before a building permit is issued by the County. Discussions held regarding the Village retaining their own building inspector and splitting the permit fees.

5.7 Building Committee Update

Diana Graf is the liaison for the TVA Building Committee. She updated the board on recent activity and board participation.

5.8 Roadside Maintenance

Trustee Peterson reported erosion on the sides of the road at the corner of Turkey Run and Turkey Hill. In an effort to protect the recent road repairs, he would like the Village to purchase the needed dirt/grass seed and he would ask the TVA to install. President Baker felt the roads belong to the TVA and they should approach the Board if they require assistance.

5.9 Trout Valley Flag

Trustee Peterson discussed potential creation of a Trout Valley flag at a cost of approximately \$300, for the 2020-21 budget. A contest to design the flag would be considered.

5.10 TV for Lodge

Discussions held regarding purchasing a TV for the lodge, to allow board members to call in remotely and to benefit the community. President Baker will approach TVA for interest.

5.11 TVA Controlling Document Adherence

No discussion.

6.0 Reports, as appropriate

6.1 Financial Report

Comptroller Haning reported Illinois Municipal League anticipates a 15% reduction in State receipts. He reviewed a spreadsheet of the State Income Tax Analysis. May tax receipts were 50% from 2019, due to delayed Illinois tax collections. MFT is down 7% in May. Annual State Income Tax collection in 2019 was \$56.1k and in 2020, \$59k is anticipated, which is a 5% increase. In a review of Cash Receipts and Disbursements, Total Cash Receipts are at \$97.4k, which is same as in 2019. This is \$2.5k over budget. Sales Tax does not expect a significant budget loss in the current budget year. In 2020-21, it is highly dependent on the nature of the underlying economy. Any impact would be on next fiscal year.

President Baker asked if the board wanted to initiate discussion on funding mosquito spraying for the Village. Comptroller Haning felt the funds were available. Trustee Peterson will work with Clark Mosquito Spraying to schedule.

Disbursements are on budget in every category with the exception of the Fen, which is over by \$18k. It was anticipated a grant would be received for the Fen, so \$20k was placed in appropriations. Overall, net cash flow is positive by \$6.9k vs a budget of \$23k. \$10k was moved from Security-Other to the appropriations budget for Stormwater Management. Discussions held regarding increasing the funds for the stormwater engineering study. However, this was not in the agenda and therefore will be reviewed in August, unless a special meeting is called for in July. In a review of the Balance Sheet, there is a \$315k Cash Balance vs \$303k in 2019. Trustee Peterson asked Counsel Kelly if MFT can be used for stormwater pipe expenditures. He will look into this issue.

Comptroller Haning explained the need for the large cash balance, which is set aside to replace the Village loop road. The road was last done in 2000 and built to IDOT standards.

President Baker requested the following motion, which was proposed by Trustee Somers and seconded by Trustee Graf:

“Approve the April and May 2020 Disbursements for the Village of Trout Valley”

Voting Aye: Trustees Antrim, Graf, Hall, Peterson, Purtil and Somers

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

6.2 Security Report

Security reports from McHenry County Sheriff and NW Suburban Patrol reflected very little activity. Mark of NW Suburban Patrol is now visible during the day and has reported mostly underage drivers of golf carts & other motorized vehicles and fishing violations.

6.3 Intergovernmental

Trustee Somers reported that due to Covid19, many intergovernmental events have been cancelled.

Trustee Peterson asked President Baker to place an article in the Trout Valley newsletter regarding finding a grant writer.

6.4 Forestry Board Report

Trustee Purtil reported an endangered Tamarak Tree was found in Trout Valley. The Forestry Board met

on June 3rd. Ringers Landscaping had not planted the new trees correctly. They will return and replant. Comptroller Haning and President Baker requested changes to the tree ordinance and any request for the lease of additional land from the TVA will need to come before the Village Board for discussion and/or approval.

6.5 Fen Restoration

Fen volunteers have been working in replacing a wooden walk, installing wooden stepping pads and general clean-up work. The final report for submission to the Morton Arboretum is being prepared, so the Village can receive the \$9k grant for the new trees. Comptroller Haning will prepare the W-9 and invoice for the grant.

6.6 Other

Clerk Gonzalez reported the Village continues to be #1 in Illinois in the reporting of the 2020 U.S. Census. However, self-reporting has stalled over the last few weeks and she will continue to encourage residents to submit their Census responses. Discussions were held regarding the various Trout Valley Facebook pages and who controls the membership. President Baker wanted to indicate if a Facebook page is not a "Official Village FB Page". Discussions held regarding awards for the Garden Plot contest. Sheelagh Cooke felt gardeners are interested in "bragging rights" not a prize.

7.0 Presidents Report

None

8.0 Adjournment

There being no additional regular business to come before the Board, President Baker requested a motion to adjourn, which was proposed at 10:07p.m. by Trustee Purtill and seconded by Trustee Graf.

Voting Aye: Trustees Antrim, Graf, Hall, Peterson, Purtill and Somers

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Tonia Gonzalez
Village Clerk