



## **Village of Trout Valley Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 7, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Trout Valley, Illinois, was held on December 7, 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 7:03 p.m. Trustees present: Robert Antrim, Walter Graf, David Hall, David Peterson, Kristin Purtill and Ann Somers. Also present were, Treasurer Laurie Almeraz, Clerk Tonia Gonzalez, Comptroller Rick Haning and Counsel James Kelly from Matuszewich & Kelly, LLP.

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

***“The October 12, 2020 meeting minutes be approved with changes to Section 4.1,4.2, 5.1, 5.3 & 6.1”***

Voting Aye: Trustees Antrim, Graf, 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 Somers:

***“The October 30, 2020 Special meeting minutes be approved with changes to Section 3.1”***

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

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

### **3.0 Public Participation**

Resident John Erhard requested an update with regards to the Cary Village Hall building. He would like to see Trout Valley obtain ownership of the complex. **\*\*This item is on the agenda under New Business Section 5.1& was move up in the agenda\*\***

TVA President, Tom Lentz inquired if the repair of Trout Valley road would be included when budgeting for the Stormwater project. This will be discussed under Old Business.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Cary Village Hall**

President Baker and Trustee Somers have reached out to their contacts within the Village of Cary and they have received no indication of what their plans are for the building. Discussions held regarding potential Village documentation on the original transfer of the building from Trout Valley to the Village of Cary. President Baker will send a letter to Mr. Kownick, Cary Mayor, informing him Trout Valley is interested/concerned about what happens to the buildings. Trustee Peterson recommend the Village utilize Mr. Dave Vogler to locate in the County records, all documentation related to the original property transfer. In addition, Trustees Somers and Purtill will search for additional documentation in files located in the Trout Valley Barn.

## **4.0 Old Business**

### **4.2 Trout Valley Road Stormwater Project Bidder Review/Approval (\*moved up due to impact on 4.1)**

Discussions held regarding lack of vendor proposals not providing cost for required items, especially dewatering. Once bids are received, the Village can move forward with the approval of the Bond Ordinance. Special meetings will be needed to review the bids and approve the Bond Ordinance. A public hearing is required and the Ordinance cannot be approved until seven days after the public hearing. Discussions held regarding the expenditure budget and the financing amounts.

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

***“To raise the Bond amount in Ordinance #2020-21-002 from \$500k to \$600k”***

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

Voting Nay: Trustee Somers. Motion carried.

Discussions held regarding potential Bond amount and impact on Village finances. Bids received have been in the \$300-\$400k range. Comptroller Haning estimated that the amount of tax on annual principal and interest of the Bond could be as high as \$60k per year. Discussions held regarding the need for conforming project bids.

January 6, 2021 will be the public hearing date and will be published in the NW Herald. Mark Bartlett, Project Consultant will work with bidders and set a bid receipt date.

### **4.1 Approval of Ordinance #2020-21-002 “AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), in one or more series, taxable or tax-exempt, of the Village of Trout Valley, McHenry County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purpose of financing the costs of certain capital projects within the Village, and paying for costs related thereto.”**

Discussed in 4.2 above.

### **4.3 Stormwater Project Update**

Discussed in 4.2 above.

### **4.4 Pedestrian Crossing**

President Baker requested a pedestrian crossing be put across Country Commons Road to Cary-Algonquin Road. A new barrier is required and telephone pole moved back. Property owner would need to be involved. Issue needs to go before the Transportation Committee prior to moving forward to the County Board.

### **4.5 Roads Update**

Trustee Graf reported the Roads committee received three bids. HR Green is the consultant/engineers for the project. Major focus will be on Big Oaks and Bluff roads, with potential work on Trout Valley and Stonegate roads. HR Green will look into combining the TVA roadwork with that of the Village of Cary for better pricing.

### **4.6 2020 U.S. Census Update**

Clerk Gonzalez reported Trout Valley’s 91.8% response rate was the highest in the state of Illinois and 16<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation. McHenry County had an 82.3% response rate and was tied for the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Illinois. She thanked the residents of Trout Valley for their tremendous response to the census, which will benefit the Village in increased funding and representation. Sheelagh Cooke was also thanked for her assistance.

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

***“Approve a \$50 gift card for Clerk Gonzalez for her work on the 2020 U.S. Census”***

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

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

#### **4.7 April 6, 2021 Consolidated Elections**

All residents are encouraged to consider running for one of three Village Trustee positions on the ballot. The filing period is from December 14<sup>th</sup> through December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Cary Village Hall**

Discussed prior to Old Business

#### **5.2 Dredging Pond #9**

Trustee Peterson estimated cost to dredge Pond #9 (Lg. pond between Tom Sawyer and TV Pool) is \$10k. A resident will contribute \$5k towards the project contingent on the TVA and Village matching the contribution at \$2.5k each.

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

***“The Village contribute up to \$2.5k towards the dredging of Pond #9 contingent on resident donation of \$5k and TVA contribution of \$2.5k”***

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

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

#### **5.3 Deer in Trout Valley**

Trustee Hall has noticed an increase in the number of deer in Trout Valley and wants to inform residents that feeding the deer is against the state law. President Baker will raise concern of holes in the fence along Cold Springs road to the TVA.

#### **5.4 Local CURE Program**

Comptroller Haning informed the Board of the program, which provides Corona Virus Relief Funds. The Village is allocated \$23k under this program for eligible items. Discussions held regarding possible purchases eligible under the program.

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

***“Purchases under the Local CURE program of up to \$22,153 to install a TV, Microphone, Camera, Tablet & prepaid data services to equip the Lodge due to Covid19, contingent on TVA approval. If additional funding is received, additional tablets would be acquired.”***

Voting Aye: Trustees Peterson, Purtill, and Somers

Voting Nay: Trustees Hall and Antrim. Abstained: Trustee Graf. Motion carried.

#### **5.5 Holiday Giving**

Comptroller Haning reviewed the template of holiday purchases over the last 5 years. Discussions held on type/amounts of holiday gifts.

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

***“Approval of \$775 to be spent on 2020 Holiday gifts”***

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

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

**5.6 Village Clerk & Treasurer Compensation**

Comptroller Haning discussed Clerk & Treasurer compensation for 2021. Budget is at \$3k for both.

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

***“The compensation for Village Clerk (\$1.5k) and Village Treasurer (\$1.2k) remain the same, until further notice”***

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

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

**6.0 Reports, as appropriate**

**6.1 Financial Report**

Comptroller Haning hopes to transition Treasurer responsibilities to Laurie Almeraz starting with the February 2021 Village board meeting. He reviewed the Revenue spreadsheets with the Board. State Income Tax is up 15% from budget and predicts it may fall due to lower income taxes. Local Use Tax is up 10% from budget, largely due to an increase in internet spending. Sales Tax is down 30% from budget. MFT is down 4% from budget.

Comptroller Haning reviewed the Income Statement. Franchise fees are down, CR&B is right on budget. Revenue (excluding grants) YTD is \$33,961, up slightly from 2019. Disbursements of \$16,707 tracking to budget. Balance Sheet reflects a Total Cash Balance of \$336,049, which is up \$31k from 2019.

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

***“Approve the November, 2020 Disbursements for the Village of Trout Valley”***

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

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

**6.2 Security Report**

Security reports from McHenry County Sheriff and NW Suburban Patrol were reviewed. Few incidents were reported. McHenry County Sheriff has been making regular patrols.

**6.3 Intergovernmental Report**

Trustee Somers suggested we follow other municipalities in starting each Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Baker recommended we wait until in-person meetings resume, to ensure a flag is available. Intergovernmental events continue to be cancelled due to Covid19.

**6.4 Forestry Board Report**

Winter pruning will begin in February 2021. Trustee Hall & Forestry/Fen Board were thanked for their continued work on the Fen, especially with the grants for the trees. Trustee Hall has a donor for a 30ft flag pole. He has permission from the business at Country Commons & Turkey Run, to place the flag pole at the corner, pending TVA approval. Counsel Kelly to prepare an agreement between the

TVA/Village/Building Owner for flag pole ownership and agreement to utilize property. Village qualifies for the "Tree City Growth Award" for their tree planting efforts/recycling/trimming programs.

#### **6.5 Fen Restoration Report**

Trout Valley Restoration Society will fund the redirection of a stream that currently flows into Pond #3 to Pond #1 using blue clay berms to prevent water flowing into the pollinator habitat. Three trees were planted as part of ComEd's tree replacement program to replace trees removed when installing new utility poles in the Fall.

#### **6.6 Other**

Clerk Gonzalez reported no submissions have been received for the Trout Valley Flag Contest.

#### **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 10:10 p.m. by Trustee Hall and seconded by Trustee Graf.

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

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonia Gonzalez

Village Clerk