

MINUTES OF THE ALBANY VILLAGE BOARD
September 12, 2011

The regular meeting of the Albany Village Board was called to order at 6:46 p.m. by President Larry Hanson in the Albany Village Hall. Members present were: Hanson, Virginia Detra, Rod Sutherland, Kim Blumer, Wayne Stemple, and John Briggs. Absent: Peggy Boeck. Also present were: Bob Levitt, Jon Runaas, Danny Mueller, Eileen Althaus, Kara Blue, Wayne and Jan Albertson, Jenny Runkle, and Crystal Holtsapple.

The Pledge of Allegiance was shared.

Proof of posting was verified.

AGENDA: Motion by Briggs, seconded by Detra to approve the agenda as posted. Carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Briggs, seconded by Sutherland to approve the minutes of the August 8 and August 22, 2011 board meetings. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S MOMENT: Will bypass for now.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: There were none.

RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC HEARING: Motion by Detra, seconded by Briggs to adopt Ordinance 01-11 as recommended from the hearing. No – Stemple. Carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHARGE FOR FIRES: Fire Chief Danny Mueller explained that due to the large barn fire that they recently fought, the cost for gas was \$1,000. This takes a huge gouge out of their budget for gasoline. Our department does not charge for services rendered. However, with a large fire such as this, since it was in our department's service area, our department is responsible for providing gas to all responding departments. Due to this large amount, the fire department has turned in a bill to the insurance company, but is unsure if they will be paying for it or not. The question is now whether or not the village felt that charging for large, long term type fires that cost so much in fuel would be feasible. After discussion, it was decided that possibly charging for a minimum amount base price, that if the costs exceed this base amount, then the insurance company or owner would be charged. It was decided that we need to have the criteria listed in the wording so that we'd know who was getting charged and who wouldn't be. Some thought that the insurance companies may be more apt to pay for this bill if there is a policy. A suggested amount for cost was \$250. Mueller will draw up a policy for review, and then we will have all municipalities covered by the AFD have a representative sign it so they can begin charging.

LIBRARY UPDATE: Kara Blue and Jenny Runkle shared information on the past year's happenings at the Albertson Memorial Library. The board thanked them for informational presentation.

RESOLUTION 05-11: Motion by Stemple, seconded by Sutherland to approve Resolution 05-11 regarding the Library Tax Exemption. Carried.

FALL FESTIVAL STREET CLOSING: Motion by Briggs, seconded by Sutherland to temporarily close North Water Street from Main Street to Oak Street and the Mini Parking Lot on Saturday, October 1 for the Fall Festival. Carried.

CONCEALED WEAPONS: Hanson shared information with the board regarding the new laws on carrying concealed weapons. He would like to see that an ordinance be written so that the village can write tickets that can go to municipal court instead of circuit court. It was suggested to see if we could get an ordinance from another community to follow and then present it at the next board meeting.

WOOD CUTTING IN ACPARD WOODS: Stemple expressed concern over the cutting of wood in the ACPARD woods. He felt that there may have been too much cleared out that could cause a problem with erosion. He feels that a specific policy should be written with guidelines to give to people that are willing to cut up downed trees. He stated that we want "zero impact – leave no trace" when people enter the woods. Briggs reminded all that we have had wood cutting in this area available for years, and have not had much interest. He is happy that there is someone willing to clean this up for us. Another concern of Stemple is to make sure that they do not infringe on any neighbors property, so that these property lines should be marked. It was also suggested that we draw up an agreement for anyone to sign before allowing them to cut wood. This will be referred back to the Park Commission.

WORKHORSE TRAINING: Motion by Sutherland, seconded by Briggs to allow Michelle Briggs to attend the Workhorse Training on October 14, 2011 at a cost of \$40. Carried.

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS: The following committee and commission reports were read and placed on file:
Joint Recycling 8-15-11
Park Commission 8-15-11
Personnel 8-22-11
Police, Fire, License 8-23-11
Joint Recycling 8-30-11
Plans Commission 9-1-11
Street & Utility 9-6-11

ACCEPTANCE DAY: It was announced that the Fall Acceptance Day has been set for Saturday, October 1 and the Electronic Drop off will be Saturday, September 24th.

STUMP GRINDING: Motion by Stemple, seconded by Sutherland to have Runaas work with Ken Foust to grind up to 15 stumps

for a cost of \$30 each in the village's parks. Carried.

2011 WAGES: State law has required anyone receiving state retirement to have to begin paying 5.8% of the cost for the retirement effective in August. Motion by Detra, seconded by Briggs to pay to the affected employees an end of the year bonus repaying them for the amount withheld from their income in 2011 since this money had already been budgeted to include this amount. Carried.

CLOSE BRIGGS DRIVE: Motion by Briggs, seconded by Sutherland to temporarily close the western portion of Briggs Drive on August 31st from 2-8 p.m. Carried.

COURT CLERK TRAINING: Motion by Briggs, seconded by Stemple to approve sending the Court Clerk Michelle Briggs to Elkhart Lake on October 20-21 at a cost of \$20 plus \$200 for the motel room. Carried.

RECYCLING CENTER ASSISTANT: Motion by Blumer, seconded by Briggs to hire Ed Luedy as Recycling Center Assistant. Carried.

FENCE PLAN APPROVAL: Motion by Detra, seconded by Stemple to approve the fence plan submitted for 210 South Water Street by owners Donald and Carol Wolfe. The questions raised at the Plans Commission had all been satisfactorily answered. Carried.

BILLS: Motion by Briggs, seconded by Blumer to approve the bills as presented. Carried.

FUTURE ITEMS: Detra questioned getting a handicapped door entering the meeting room. This will be reviewed at the Building, Grounds, and Cemetery meeting.

Detra wanted to remind everyone that all of the committees need to turn in their suggested budgets this month.

Stemple stated that he received a letter from Barolatta's (Fireworks) stating that their insurance denied payment of \$1,600 for the heifer that died during the fireworks in May.

Briggs questioned if Mineral Street was going to be redone next year. Sutherland explained that it was decided to make sure that the sewer lagoon improvements is done first, and that possibly the work on Highway 59 will be done before they redo the entire highway, but that Mineral Street will probably not be done in 2012.

ADJOURN: Motion by Briggs, seconded by Stemple to adjourn. Carried. 8:13 p.m.
LAURIE K. KEEPERS, Clerk Village of Albany