

Village of Dolton
Board of Trustees Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
Monday, May 20, 2019

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at the new village hall at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL The following trustees were present: Tammie Brown, Deborah Denton, Tiffany Henyard, Andrew Holmes, Jason House, and Edward Steave.

Also, present: Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan. Village Attorney John B. Murphey and Village Engineer Ronald E. Smith were absent.

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/
PRAYER

Prayer was led by Fire Chief Dyer.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The village clerk administered the oath of office of Fire Engineer to Wesley Sewell.

The village clerk administered the oath of offices of Fire Captain to David Duvall and Daniel Manning.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thornridge H.S. Boys Track: Trustee Steave announced that the Thornridge Falcons boys track team recently won IHSA sectionals and were on their way to state finals, and asked coaches, team members, and Thornridge Principal Ebonie Williams to step forward.

Tag Days Request: The village clerk asked the trustees for a consensus on the tag days request by I.H.U.S.T.L.E Basketball. Guidelines approved by the board limit requests to 3 days at any one time. The clerk suggested approval of this request to one of the weekends requested. There was a consensus to permit one weekend tag event among the dates requested at I.H.U.S.T.L.E's choice

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 19-007

Mayor Rogers said that the bond issue was needed to pay Homewood Disposal for overdue garbage pick-up. In response to Trustee Denton's question why the village could not apply the \$600,000 remaining surplus to reduce the payment, Mayor Rogers said that the village needs the Dorchester funds to cover emergencies.

Trustee House commented that even with the Dorchester revenue, there would still be a deficit owed to Homewood Disposal. He added that this is the same proposal that as has been done in recent years.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question as to how this would affect residents, Mayor Rogers responded that a bond is like a loan. Trustee House added that the bond pays interest which is secured by future tax revenues.

Trustee Steave cited the advice of Attorney Vincent Cainkar, who advises the village on tax matters, that the bond will not increase taxes. Trustee Steave said that the village's goal is to raise revenue.

Trustee Henyard said that the village needs to re-evaluate continued borrowing.

Trustees Brown, Holmes, House, and Steave were in consensus to move forward with the proposal. Trustees Denton and Henyard were not in favor.

2. Resolution No. 19 R-010

Authorizing the Transfer of Funds to the General Corporate Fund from the TIF #3 Indulux Fund in Payment of Administrative Fees for Fiscal Years 2005-2019.

Mayor Rogers explained that the transfer of funds recovers administrative expenses the village could have but did not charge this TIF District.

Trustee Henyard asked Mayor Rogers for the balance of the TIF district and to itemize the funds to be repaid.

Trustee House said that the transfer is a reimbursement of fees owed to the general fund.

There was a consensus of Trustees House, Brown, Holmes, and Steave to approve at the next meeting.

3. Cook County Class 8 Tax Incentive Applications

Mayor Rogers reminded the trustees that Village Attorney Murphey had sent them an explanation of the Class 8 process.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the applications for the following commercial addresses:

1421 E. Sibley Blvd.
1317 E. Sibley Blvd.
14753 Greenwood Rd.
1040 Maryland Ave.
1100 Maryland Ave.
114-130 E. Sibley Blvd.
132 E. Sibley Blvd.

Trustee Denton asked which if any incentives are already in existence, and if those requesting an extension are also eligible for the incentive.

Trustee Brown said that the goal of the incentive is to attract and retain businesses.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question why there are seven applications before the board, Mayor Rogers said that the tax incentives are necessary to bring businesses in and to stay.

Trustee Holmes said that businesses coming into Dolton expand revenue.

In response to Trustee Henyard's request to break the numbers down, Trustee House noted that the application to Cook County for 1040 Maryland available to all trustees provided that the incentive would reduce its annual taxes from \$120,000 to \$51,000 per year. Trustee House added that he was in favor of the applications except for the Marathon station on Sibley.

Trustee Brown said that the village must give something to get something, including jobs. Mayor Rogers added that he has asked each to hire Dolton residents first.

Trustee Steave noted the expansion in recent years by Water Integrated Systems on Greenwood and now onto Maryland.

Trustees Brown, Denton, Holmes, House and Steave were in agreement to move forward with all applications except for the Marathon station.

Trustee Henyard said that she wanted to know the duration of the tax incentives.

4. Purchase of Vehicles: Six (6) 2019 Dodge Durango Police Vehicles and Seven (7) 2019 Fiat 500 vehicles through Municipal Funding Solutions

Village Administrator Elizabeth Scott outlined the details of the purchase.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question as to whether the village could afford the purchase, Mayor Rogers deferred to Chief Collins, who explained that police vehicles are in operation 16-24 hours per day and after 2-3 years a vehicle is an old vehicle with 100-200,000 miles, which results in rising maintenance costs. Chief Collins added that sometimes it is more feasible to purchase than to pour resources into maintenance.

Trustee Henyard objected to such a large purchase while the village owes Chicago for past due water and "the City of Chicago is looking at us."

Ms. Scott explained in further detail how maintenance costs are exceeding the purchase costs.

There was a consensus among the trustees except Trustee Henyard to move forward with the purchase.

5. Termination of Legislative Counsel for Trustees

Trustee House explained that elimination of this outside counsel would result in cost savings. The trustees have the village attorney available for legal advice.

There was a consensus among the trustees except Trustee Denton to terminate.

6. Update on Melanie Fitness Center

Trustee Steave reported that pool repairs are in process. He added that pool repairs were almost completed last fall by Scott Gilmore before his position as property engineer was lined out of the budget. Former trustees had claimed that the county required the work be done by a certified contractor; Trustee Steave said that he checked and certified workers are only required for work on the pumps. Trustee Steave added that he wants to save Melanie for the village and that he will use his social media skills to market the center. He urged all Dolton residents to join Melanie Fitness Center.

Mayor Rogers said that he applauded Trustee Steave for his initial efforts and enthusiasm.

CITIZENS ADDRESS

Stephanie Fletcher, resident, prayed that the board will work with all residents to sit at the table for open discussion of their tax dollars.

Kiana Belcher, resident, asked about the disposition of a Class 8 tax relief license by the now closed CVS.

Mayor Rogers responded that CVS did not apply for Class 8 tax relief. He added that the owner of the now vacant property wants \$24,000 per month, which prospective tenants who have approached the village have rejected.

Resident further questioned why the residents' payments to the village for garbage collection are insufficient to pay Homewood Disposal. She also objected to the new Payment Center policy to not accepting cash payments, which is very inconvenient.

Dan Lee, resident, said that there are many lots with overgrown weeds, former Housing Director Denise Fields was always helpful in responding to complaints, and asked why Ms. Fields was no longer employed by the village. He urged the board to be consistent on dismissals.

Mayor Rogers said that he would not discuss employment matters at a public meeting.

Resident asked about the duration of the proposed Class 8 incentives; asked about a news story on News Radio 78 mentioning Dolton and grants; and asked who to call when grass needs cutting.

Mr. Crayton, resident, asked about the figures re Melanie Fitness Center and how much the village owes to Homewood Disposal and what businesses are coming in.

Mayor Rogers responded that the village owes over \$2m to Homewood Disposal. One major business has considered coming in but will not without a Class 8 tax incentive.

Mr. Crayton continued to ask for figures.

Mayor Rogers responded that as a former school board trustee, Mr. Crayton was familiar with these types of questions, and that Mr. Crayton was not re-elected.

Mr. Crayton apologized for possible offense to the mayor and the residents.

Sandra Wells, resident, asked if there is a plan in place so residents may know what's happening. Resident further asked if the agreement to purchase included trade-ins. Resident further asked if water rates increase, will users of less than the minimum be charged more.

Mayor Rogers responded that new committees are in place to meet regularly, the village will be salvaging some vehicles, and that he wants to implement monthly water billing so residents will not be overcharged.

Georgia Williams, resident, reported that no one in her block received a water bill, which is now overdue.

Mayor Rogers acknowledged ongoing problems in the water department. Trustee Holmes added that the affected residents should not be charged the late fee.

Valeria Stubbs, former trustee and resident, directed her question to Trustee House, asking how he came up with the \$50,000 savings figure for the Class 8 applicant he referenced.

Trustee House responded that he was using the calculations provided by the applicant's attorney.

Vanessa Richmond, resident, 15200 Chicago Road, reported severe potholes behind her building.

Resident said that he supported a program like the proposed "Block by Block" program to provide housing for new residents, and encouraged the purchase of electric vehicles.

Diane Lofton, resident, asked why after receiving a letter, vehicle stickers are not yet available, and asked if water billing increases, would minimum billing also increase. She also asked why residents' payments for garbage do not pay Homewood Disposal.

Mayor Rogers said that if the village's IEPA loan is approved, smart readers would read the actual usage by satellite. Mayor Rogers added that residents' payments are now segregated into dedicated repayment funds.

Resident urged and inquired use of IDOT ticketing of overweight trucks.

Chief Collins confirmed that DPD personnel are trained and implementing overweight scales and ticketing.

Mary Avent, resident, said that Mayor Rogers' request for a consensus at this meeting was no different than a vote and nothing had changed. She added that she applauded Mr. Crayton for being a gentleman in response to Mayor Rogers' comment.

Resident asked why the village is giving tax breaks to businesses when they do not pay enough to pay water and garbage.

Kevin Boens, resident, former trustee candidate, asked why there are no details presented on funds and whether the village was moving forward blind. The village should not be moving into further debt. He also asked why two trustees have not been assigned to trustees' committees.

AJ Burse, resident, former trustee candidate, expressed his appreciation of the village's acknowledgment of the Thornridge High School track team' success. He congratulated Elizabeth Scott on her appointment as village administrator, and expressed his support for the renaming of Chicago Road in honor of Dr. King. He further asked for clarity and communication re Class 8 applications and the upcoming budgeting process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee Henyard, second by Trustee Denton, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mayor Rogers asked for a roll call to adjourn.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Trustees Brown, Denton, Henyard, Holmes, House, Steave

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0


Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.



MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 3rd day of June, 2019.



RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor