

Village of Dolton Board of Trustees  
Meeting of the Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at the new village hall at 6:38 p.m.

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

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

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE/  
PRAYER

Prayer was led by Trustee Brown.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rogers acknowledged the passing of resident and former media operator Kenneth Wright.

Trustee House announced that the trustees finance committee will meet on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.

Trustee Henyard reminded senior residents of the daily luncheons offered by the Dolton Community Café weekdays at New Community Church, 14801 Lincoln Ave. Trustee Henyard further noted reports of thefts of medical deliveries to seniors.

ORDER OF BUSINESS *(Discussion Only)*

1. Presentation of Youth Development Organization  
*Determined To Be UpRight*

Founder and Executive Director Omar Yamini described the work of his "501(c)(3) youth development organization, which seeks to help youth develop critical thinking and social and emotional skills that increase positive behavior and improve decision making; provide youth opportunities to experience cultural arts; and create community connections for youth.

Trustee Denton asked what Mr. Yamini would like the village to do. Mr. Yamini said that he wants to form a partnership with the village. The partnership would not necessarily always be financial, but would include sponsorship, offices and funding. Trustee Steave asked how many youth is the program working with right now. Mr. Yamini answered that this would be his first venture outside of academic institutions. In response to Trustee Holmes' question, Mr. Yamini said that he is not working with any other suburbs and that his previous work was with schools.

Trustee House said that he would like a more formalized request. Mr. Yamini noted that the numbers are in the information he provided to the trustees. Trustee House said that he had familiarized himself with the information, and asked if Mr. Yamini was looking for the village to fund the program or for a letter of agreement for seeking future funds.

Trustee Henyard said that she is assuming everyone is asking for a more formal proposal. The village clerk noted that pursuant to the ordinance passed by the board in May, 2019, such a proposal would come first before a meeting of the committee of the whole for discussion.

## 2. Water Billing and Water Shut Off-Turn On

Trustee Henyard asked for a show of hands from audience members who've had incorrect water billings. She noted that a majority of the room raised hands, to which Mayor Rogers responded that five people had raised their hands.

Trustee Henyard asked for answers to the following questions: Why doesn't the village send out shut-off notices anymore? Why was consumption increased from 10 units to 20 units, and who authorized the change? Why are meters rolling back? Why did the village shut off the water at Thornridge High School? What is the reason for removing Ms. Johnson and Ms. Scott from oversight of the water department?

Discussion followed. Trustee Steave noted that the village had been testing out a new policy to restore water service within 24 hours of payment instead of within 48 hours. Supt. Stacey confirmed that service is currently being restored within 24 hours. Trustee Henyard responded "y'all full of it." Trustee Steave said that Trustee Henyard should come into the village hall and talk with staff. Mayor Rogers said that restoration time depends on the number of shut-offs, and that everyday two crews are working on a turn-on list.

Mayor Rogers acknowledged that the village no longer sends a separate shut-off notice but the shut-off warning is printed in red on the water bills. He said he is considering a "red sticker" shut-off notice. In response to Trustee Henyard's question, Mayor Rogers said that sending shut-off notices by mail would be costly, and notices are often lost with other mail. Trustee Henyard said a cost analysis should be done.

At Mayor Rogers direction, Sonye London, water department manager, explained that minimum consumption was not raised from 10 units to 20 units, but that the last billing cycle estimated bills at 20 units. The minimum payment remains at 10 units. In response to Trustee Henyard's question, Ms. London said that the decision to increase estimates to 20 units was made by Ms. Scott, Ms. Johnson, and herself.

Discussion continued on the effectiveness of the yellow card readings versus automatic meter readers. Trustee Henyard said that the mayor should fix the department first and questioned the costs of automated readers. Mr. Rogers responded that the village has reapplied to the IEPA for funding. He added that Dolton is the only town that does not shut-off water on Fridays. Trustee Henyard noted that other towns accept cash and Dolton does not. Trustee Steave again urged Trustee Henyard to meet with department heads when she has questions. Trustee Henyard replied that Trustee Steave "is full of crap."

In response to Trustee Henyard's question about water meters rolling back, Ms. London said that they do not. There may be an incorrect reading, the meter may stop, or be broken.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question, Ms. London said that district 1 bills estimated at 20 units instead of 10 units. The village will be sending those residents revised bills correcting the error. In response, Trustee Henyard noted that Ms. London had previously said that the increase was a joint decision and now she is saying it was an error.

Mayor Rogers said that the water for Thornridge High School was never turned off. There are certain entities in the village that should never be turned off. A public works employee noted that Thornridge was on the shut-off list and went into the school to notify school officials. Trustee Henyard said that it never should have gotten that far.

Mayor Rogers noted that residents may ask to enter into payment plans. Ms. Johnson will work with the water department until an additional supervisor is hired.

## CITIZENS ADDRESS

Kiana Belcher, resident, asked how residents can get outside meter readings, and what could cause the meter to be incorrect.

*Mayor Rogers suggested that the village eventually require the installation of outside touch pads for all residents which would be funded by a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). In response to the second question, Supt. Stacey said he would have to look at the meter.*

Resident asked how the village let residents fall months behind on their water bills without shutting off service.

*Mayor Rogers replied that some shut-offs require dig jobs.*

Barbara Morris, resident, said that residents' water bill concerns should be addressed in the office and not at board meetings.

Diane Lofton, resident, said that Ms. London resolved a problem she had with her water bill, and said that she knows that water meter readings can roll back. She added that she always gets estimated bills even though she turns in her yellow card immediately on receipt.

*Mayor Rogers suggested resident contact the water department again regarding these problems..*

Resident since 1995 said that he remembers the shut-off card notices. He received a bill for \$700. He said he called and found it hard to get through. It took time to rectify and he had to do his foot work.

Resident since 1997 on 146<sup>th</sup> St, said that residents are not being treated right. He said that his water bill was 15 days late when his water was shut-off. He said that he had to wait 2-3 days after he paid for his water to be turned on.

Valeria Stubbs, resident, asked who is responsible for the cost of replacing a broken meter.

*Supt. Stacey responded that if the heat had been shut-off, the property owner is responsible. If there is heat, the meter is checked to determine what happened.*

Resident added that the bills should spell out "actual" or "estimate." She said she received an actual reading of zero consumption. She came into the village but still got late fees.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee Henyard, second by Trustee House, 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

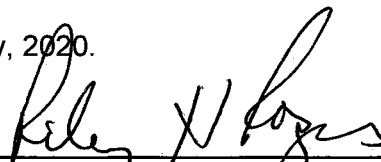
ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

  
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MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 3rd day of February, 2020.

  
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RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor