

**Village of Lee
Regular Board Meeting
on
September 13, 2021
at the Lee Fire Barn**

Meeting come to order:

Pres. Pro tem Thomas Kapraun--present
Trustee Martha May – present
Trustee Jesse Blackwood --present
Trustee Jean Michels – present
Trustee Jessica Moser – present
Trustee Dawn Kimpflin – present

Treasurer Linda Korth – absent reports available.
vacant – V. Clerk
V. Attorney Cassandra Gottschalk – present

As the Village Clerk position is vacant, President pro tem Kapraun ask that notes to be taken by Trustees Kimpflin and Moser, then combined to write up minutes.

Julie of Coupe's Bar in Lee, Illinois, intends to have a Block Party on September 18th for Josh Carlson's wedding reception. The event will take place on the ½ block west of Viking Vie on Kirke Gate, north of Coupe's. Barricades will be placed that morning on Kirke Gate blocking off Viking Vie to the alley. 2 port-a-potties, tables and chairs will be set up. Music to be played until 11:00 pm. Everything to be removed the next morning. Coupe's will abide by village noise ordinances. There was a consensus of the board members to temporarily close that portion of Kirke Gate to allow this event.

A considerable number of residents attended the board meeting regarding Code violation letters that were sent out, coming to protest and ask questions. Those signing up to discuss this subject were given the option to speak during the Public Commentary, or hold their questions for the portion of the meeting discussing the Code Violation letters. Most opted to wait for the latter portion of the meeting.

While the letters were emailed to the village treasurer with the invoice, the Village President did not authorize these to be sent. Some letters were dated in May while some inspections were done but not mailed until September. Some major miscommunications have taken place between the mayor, treasurer, trustees and B&F.

Public Commentary:

Stacey Schnupp wanted more clarification on how the letters were going to be addressed by the Board. Why were B&F allowed to send out letters without the Board's approval? Why does the Board need to hire out for ordinance and code violations? It has been a long time going without village permits as there has been no company found to handle the permits. The price for permits seems high.

Mike McGuinness addressed a question to the B&F Company: If letters weren't approved to send out, why or does the Board have to enforce the letters? An answer was not immediately available. Ordinances are listed in the village's Property Maintenance Code adopted 3-4 years ago and available on line. He also asked if the Board could terminate the contract with B&F to which the answer is, "yes."

Other comments from the meeting in visitors' public comments:

Terri Voitik reported on her attendance at the RPC August 26th meeting in Sycamore. Grants may be available to help repairs in struggling communities. Hiring a grant writer might be a consideration. There's a need to form long-range plans.

At the last meeting Marge Foshe stated she was verbally assaulted by a board member. Then after the meeting was adjourned, she was chased after by a different board member who huffed and started screaming and yelling at her regarding her stance on a village subject. She stated she had no intention of arguing with the trustee. In her opinion she believes the mayor pro tem and trustees did not act appropriately.

Curtis Cook, our village engineer, gave some updates on the village's million dollar water project.

Amber Otterstrom had complaints about the two ruts past the mailbox and driveway which flood during rains. She has not received any reply from emails or from the Board on what the plans are for fixing the situation.

Stacy Schnupp thinks the board members have a negative approach to current business owners or the prospect of new businesses locally.

Code Violation discussion:

Mr. Summer, representative from B&F at the meeting. He said that due to some miscommunication at B&F, the letters were sent out without approval by the village. For that he took responsibility and apologized. Mr. Summer said that his company is hired as a 3rd party to keep communities up to codes. They are hired by Shabbona and Hinckley as well. Trustee May asked about the \$750 a day fee for violations not taken care of. Mr. Summer said that is UP TO \$750 a day which is the highest fee that could be charged after multiple attempts to resolve the issues has not worked.

Trustee Kimpflin made a motion to stay the discussion to review the letters that were sent and revisit the properties and the whole situation. Motion was unanimously passed.

Other Subjects:

Village lawyer Cassandra Gottschalk brought a candidate, Sandie Maahs, who is the Village Clerk in Davis Junction, but would be willing to take on the part-time position at \$500 a month. She could not help during next year 2022 election months. This amount is twice that which the Board has paid to any previous clerk. The board will discuss the possibility of hiring her on a part-time basis until a full-time clerk can be found. Nicole Pyne expressed interest in the job.

Martha May has one person possibly interested in the clerk's position, but they would like to do some further research before committing.

Katie Wuthrich, a new resident in Lee, is an accountant who will send in her resume for the treasurer's position when it becomes available.

Jeff Jacobsen was hired to appraise the former meat packing plant property as well as the strip of land under part of the well house and easement. The village needs proof of ownership in order to proceed with either eminent domain or to make a fair market value offer on the whole property.

The Hodge property has been transferred to a family member. As such, Adria Packing will not be building on this property as they have previously suggested.

Review and Approval of the Minutes, Treasurer's Report and Bills:

Trustee May made a motion to approve the August corrected minutes. Jessica Moser seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report showed the liquor license listed twice. \$18,349.31 should be \$17,349.31.
Total income \$29,472.07

Lee bills: Trustee Moser questioned paying the B&F invoice. Pro tem mayor Tom Kapraun opted to review the B&F contract and not to pay bill until after a review. He made a motion to pay all bills except B&F's. Trustee Blackwood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Julie from Coupes Bar would like to see road stripes redone downtown. Stripes needed from the apartments to Coupes as well. The stripes need to be angle lines for parking, not straight lines. Look into at next meeting to get bids.

America Rescue Plan grant check for \$22,262.88 was received with stipulations for what it can be used.

Sandie Maahs present to offer temporary assistance in the village clerk position mentioned that a Covid grant in the neighborhood of \$13,000 may be available to the village. Application deadline is December 31, 2021.

Review Public Commentary time limits. Suggestion is 5 minutes per speaker with a total of 30 minutes. Trustee Moser made a motion to limit each visitor to 5 minutes with Trustee Michels seconding it. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Having been elected to fill the position of Village President at the September meeting, attorney Gottschalk swore in Josh Carlson as village president. He will serve until the next unified election in 2022.

Reports:

Streets and Alleys: Pothole filling with cold patch is underway.

Water and refuse: Old garbage contract expires in October. New plan to be presented at the next meeting.

Finance and Ordinance: Jessica is to send copies of letters sent out to residents to each board member for review. DO NOT REPLY ALL on emails.

Adjournment:

Trustee Moser made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. Trustee Kapraun seconded the motion. All were in favor.