

**Village of North Henderson
Trustee Meeting
Village Shed
August 9, 2018 6:30 pm**

The Village of North Henderson Trustee Meeting for August 9, 2018 was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Carol Rogers.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Trustees Angie Chandlee, Don McGraw, John Hoefer, Karin Simkins, and Tiffany Leffler
Also Attending: President Carol Rogers, Treasurer Gary Whitcomb and Clerk Melody Hall
Visiting: Jim Tucker and Don Adams
Absent: Trustee Vanessa Olson

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Visitor Jim Tucker announced Floral Hall's fund raiser is one week from Saturday date being August 18, 2018. President Rogers asked Mr. Tucker what time they would want to have the road blocked. Mr. Tucker answered 9:00 am or somewhere around there.

President Rogers asked if anyone sees Ron to thank him for getting the rock on the roads thicker than normal. President Rogers stated that when she called to order the rock the gentleman at Mack Trucking told her a lot of the villages are using a lime chip mix and they really like it because the lime soaks up the oil better, so she ordered a load and she thinks it is really working because it has soaked up the oil. President Rogers explained they moved the pile closer to the corner so the village could dig up the water main across the street.

MINUTES:

President Rogers stated she saw a correction on page 3, 3rd paragraph it says Moline and should be Milan.

Trustee Simkins made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Trustee McGraw 2nd the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Simkins, Hoefer, McGraw, Chandlee and Leffler. Motion Passed

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Trustee Leffler made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Trustee Hoefer 2nd the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Chandlee, Hoefer, Leffler, McGraw and Simkins. Motion Passed

BILLS:

President Rogers stated Treasurer Whitcomb has a couple bills to add that was just received today, the first is the bill for the lime chip mix from Mack Trucking. President Rogers commented that the cost of the lime chip mix is what we normally would pay just to have the rock delivered.

President Rogers stated the other bill is for the web site through Illinois Rural Water. President Rogers commented that she wanted to look into that bill because she thought the reason the village went with them was they were cheaper than the rest. President Rogers stated that she believed the cost was around \$10.00 or \$20.00 a month. President Rogers asked if anyone could remember what it was because she thought \$357.00 was a lot. President Rogers stated that she is going to look at the agreement and last year's cost but the reason she wants it included this month is because it was due in July and if the village does indeed owe it then she wants it approved so it can be paid. Trustee Leffler commented the bill runs from July 2018 to June 31, 2019 so it expired in June. Trustee Simkins stated it must run for a whole year. President Rogers commented it does work out being for the whole year. Trustee Simkins asked what account would these bills go under. Treasurer Whitcomb answered the General Account.

Trustee Hoefer asked about the recycling bill, if anyone has spoke to the township to see if they were still paying their part. President Rogers stated she may have dropped the ball on that one because she thought we were going to get a bigger bin and go from there. Trustee Simkins stated we did get a bigger one. President Rogers asked if we still needed to police the bins. Trustee Hoefer answered if the township residents are going to use the recycle bins the township needs to pay their share or let the residents know they are not to use them. Trustee Leffler asked if there were still people from Alexis using the bins. Clerk Hall answered yes; Mr. Tucker and I were out finishing up with the tractor and noticed someone from Alexis dropping off some recyclables, Mr. Tucker wrote down the truck's description and license plate number. Clerk Hall continued to state she knew the person because he lives next door to her aunt and she lives in Kelly Township not North Henderson Township. President Rogers stated if we knew who send the bill to we would send the bill with an explanation that if they want to use the bins then they need to pay. Visitor Tucker stated the bill should be sent to Frank Young but there is a board member here at the meeting. President Rogers asked Visitor Adams if the bill could be sent to him. Mr. Adams answered yes and he would take it to the next meeting.

Trustee Simkins made a motion to accept the bill with the addition of the Mack Trucking in the amount of \$299.04 and the website bill for \$357.50. Trustee Leffler 2nd the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustees Chandlee, McGraw, Hoefer, Simkins, and Leffler. Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Village Park Grant:

President Rogers commented the committee has narrowed the list as to what they would like to have for the park through the grant. President Rogers stated she met with Mr. Leffler and Melanie at the park and went over what things the committee would like, the cost, different ideas as to what would work best and different ideas of what to do with the mulch. President Rogers commented with the way the grass has grown up through the mulch it made it nice and cushy, Mr. Leffler and Melanie had agreed so the mulch is at the bottom of the list and as the village does fund raisers then more can be done with the mulch. President Rogers stated Mr. Leffler had given her an estimate of little over \$9000.00.

President Rogers stated she has put together a proposal and submitted it to Mercer County Better Together, when Mercer County Better Together receives all the proposals for each town, which was to be due by August 1, 2018, Mercer County Better Together will have a meeting with each town where

they will prioritize everything then figure out how much they will ask Looser Flake for. President Rogers stated Looser Flake will then decide how much each community will receive at their October meeting and then each town will know how much they will receive. President Rogers commented if any revisions are needed she will be informed before Looser Flakes meeting in October and she will get the committee together and make the necessary revisions then resubmit the proposal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Unpaid Water Bills:

President Rogers stated that she wants to revisit the water ordinance, one reason she wants to revisit the ordinance is because right now the ordinance states if we have a house that is empty and there is an unpaid bill when someone new moves in the new tenant/owner must pay the unpaid bill before the water is turned on, and that does not seem right to her. President Rogers stated there is a house that has just been sold, has sat empty for 5 years and no one knows exactly how much the last water bill was. President Rogers commented she had spoke to Treasurer Whitcomb and he thought the bill was around \$50.00 from when he was reading the water meters, and with the new water system you cannot go back to see what the old was, so it is a guess as to the \$50.00. President Rogers stated the meter that was there had to be replaced with a new meter because with the water being shut off and the cold winters it had broke. President Rogers continued to state with the way the ordinance reads the new tenant/owner has to pay for the new meter also. President Rogers commented "Welcome to North Henderson" and that is why the ordinance needs to be revisited. President Rogers stated it is not the new owner's water, they didn't use it, and they had no control over it so why are they being charged. President Rogers stated when the people moved into the Hootman house it was a different situation; the bank owned the house and owed the bill so the bank paid it. President Rogers commented these people moved in new and didn't know anything about it.

President Rogers stated she has looked through the ordinance and it states something about tenants and land owners but nothing about unpaid water bills, other than if there is a lien on the property which there is not. President Rogers continued to state the ordinance talks about the \$10.00 plus an interest fee which adds up to where if a person is late they cannot pay it.

Trustee Simkins asked if the back fee and the cost of the new meter could come out of what the house sold for, the old owner would not get the full amount the house sold for and that way the money would come out before they get their check. President Rogers stated it is a good idea but she did not know the legalities. Treasurer Whitcomb stated that would be part of the closing cost. Trustee Simkins stated a bill could be sent to the attorney in charge stating the old owner owes this and it needs to be taken out of the closing cost. President Rogers stated that may need to be the way it is done because the old owner passed away so it would have to come out of the estate.

Trustee Hoefer asked if the ordinance was to be changed what would it say, if he was the owner of a property, closed his account without paying his late bill, then someone else was to open an account on his property while he was still living there the bill wouldn't get paid. Trustee Hoefer continued to state where as the way the ordinance is set up now it would get paid. President Rogers answered Trustee Hoefer is still the tenant so he would still have to pay the bill.

President Rogers commented it is helpful with the way we are staying on top of the water bills, if they are not paid by the shut off date we are out there to shut them off. President Rogers continued to

comment she has had a couple people meet her outside and ask what she's doing here's the money for the bill.

Clerk Hall commented when her mother passed away, she went up to the village to pay the final bill and have the water turned off, the village took the amount due out of the deposit, it was over 40 years ago they put the deposit down and she received the balance that was left after the payment. Clerk Hall continued to state that her parents were never late and that was why they still had it on the books because if they had been late it would have come out of the \$50.00. Treasure Whitcomb stated the \$50.00 is no longer a deposit, it is a turn on fee because the accountant/auditor said no more with it being considered a deposit because you have to pay interest on it. Trustee Chandlee stated when they owned a property in Oneida their tenant was responsible for the water bill but if they did not pay the bill it would come to her in her name, even though the water was in the tenant's name. Treasurer Whitcomb stated he pays all the bills for his rentals then has the tenant pay him for the bill, that way he knows the bill gets paid. President Rogers commented as a landlord Treasurer Whitcomb chooses to do the bills that way. President Rogers stated she had a tenant move and left an unpaid electric bill for \$400.00, she called the electric company and asked if she was responsible for the bill, the electric company stated no because the bill was not hers. Trustee McGraw commented that down the road they will recover the bill from the ones who owe it. Trustee Chandlee stated she would speak to the lady in Galesburg who does the water bills to see how they handle unpaid bills on vacant houses. President Rogers stated the ordinance has a provision where you can put a lien on the property but you cannot do this if the people don't own it and she really doesn't know the legalities. President Rogers commented someone else ran up the water bill now your new and you owe it, how's that legal.

Trustee Hoefer asked about the status of the property on West Street. President Rogers answered he has mowed it and filled it in, he just got married a couple weeks ago and he is suppose to come back and keep working on it. President Rogers commented the goal was to have a house on it by the end of July but it did not happen and she is keeping on him about it, now the weeds have grown up again.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Visitor Jim Tucker stated he had noticed on some of the bills there was a note stating payment was received after the bills were printed, why was there no late fees. Clerk Hall stated the payments were there after she read the meters she could not go back and post them at that point, so the resident knew to deduct the payment from the total due. Clerk Hall continued to state that the late fees should have been on the bill because she deducts the amount paid from the total amount due which includes the late fees. Mr. Tucker asked if they did or did not have the late fees. Clerk Hall answered they did because before printing the bill she clicks on "apply late charges," then recalculates and the program adds the late fees. Mr. Tucker asked if board members get charged late fees. Clerk Hall answered yes, just like anybody else. President Rogers commented she has received late fees. Clerk Hall stated there is a report she runs at the end of the month called Account Late Charge Processing, she had noticed an account that is always late was not on the report so she checked the account and the box was not checked since then she has gone through all the accounts to make sure they all had the box checked. Clerk Hall commented she also uses that report to apply the \$10.00 penalty. Mr. Tucker stated he did not see any late fees on one of the board members account. Clerk Hall stated she would check it out and get back with him.

Visitor Don Adams asked why his bill has showed that it was an estimate and not an actual reading. President Rogers answered his meter has not been reading so we estimate it. Clerk Hall commented she

has done everything, going up the alley, all the way up Mr. Adams driveway, and down the alley to get the meter to read. Mr. Adams stated he generally only uses 1000 gallons but it is being estimated as 2000 gallons. President Rogers explained 2000 gallons is the cap so when an estimate is being done that is what we use. Clerk Hall commented when she has to enter an estimate if she uses anything less than 2000 the program kicks it out. Clerk Hall stated if she gets an actual reading the program will adjust the bill to where Mr. Adams could end up with a credit. Mr. Adams asked when Clerk Hall will be reading the meters next month. Clerk Hall answered Sept. 5th since the 3rd is a holiday. Mr. Adams stated he would get with Clerk Hall and give her the reading on the 5th. President Rogers stated she would try and get someone to his house to look at the meter. Mr. Tucker asked President Rogers if the hand held worked. President Rogers stated it does when it wants to, that sometimes you have to walk all the way up to the meter before the hand held reads.

Trustee Leffler asked about the movie night in the park. President Rogers stated she thought about it when at the end of July she noticed they hadn't had one yet. Trustee Leffler asked if it could be put on the agenda for next month. President Rogers answered yes for new business.

Trustee Chandlee asked if anything has been done with the speed limit signs. President Rogers answered she had forgotten about it but it will be on the agenda for next month as old business before it gets too cold to do anything.

Trustee Hoefer asked if the Burn Ordinance has been sent out to the residents yet. President Rogers stated Clerk Hall was going to send it out with the water bills but there has been a problem with the printer, the drum keeps going out which stops the printer from printing. President Rogers stated the new drum should be here soon so the printer can be fixed and the ordinance will be mailed out this week.

President Rogers commented she has some yard signs that say "Slow Children at Play" if anyone would like one, she has about 10 of them that she got from Milan Surplus. President Rogers stated she has an announcement she forgot about, Lake Story is having an open house coming up if anyone is interested, and she will post it on the board.

Trustee Leffler made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee McGraw 2nd the motion.

The August 9, 2018 North Henderson Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm. Next meeting will be September 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Village Garage.

Melody Hall
Village Clerk

Carol Rogers
Village President