**Village of North Henderson**

**Trustee Meeting**

**Village Shed**

**September 13, 2018 6:30 pm**

The Village of North Henderson Trustees Meeting for September 13, 2018 was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Carol Rogers.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Trustees John Hoefer, Tiffany Leffler, Don McGraw, Karin Simkins, and Vanessa Olson

Also Present: President Carol Rogers, Treasurer Gary Whitcomb and Clerk Melody Hall

Visiting: Jim Tucker and Justine

Absent: Trustee Angie Chandlee

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Visitor Jim Tucker announced the Floral Halls event was very successful and they would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help and also those who came and donated to the roof fund. Mr. Tucker continued to announce that they raised enough money to order the roof and it should be getting done in October. President Rogers asked if Mr. Tucker had any idea of how many people had come. Mr. Tucker answered no but there was quite a crowd. Trustee Leffler commented even with all the other events happening that day.

Clerk Hall announced the Alexis’s Fall Parade, which use to be the Homecoming Parade, is set for Thursday, Sept 20,20018 at 6:00 pm. Clerk Hall continued to state the parade will start on East Broadway, turn right on Main Street, turn right on Palmer and turn right on Holloway. Clerk Hall stated if anyone is interested in being in the parade they can contact Jenny McKeown or Kate Brown.

Clerk Hall announced she had a couple other items, one being she finally got a copy of the burn ordinance out to the residences, she mailed them the week of August 13th. Clerk Hall then announced she sent out a bill for the recycling to the township along with a letter asking them if they still wanted to participate to please submit the amount owed and if not if they could please notify the township residence. Clerk Hall stated there was a copy of the bill and letter in everyone’s folder and that she has not heard from the township yet. Clerk Hall also stated that she spoke to the recycling company and they no longer want plastic bags in the bins to put everything loose or in a box. Mr. Tucker stated it was because the bags come from China and the tariff. Clerk Hall then stated a slip went out with the bills to inform all residence. Clerk Hall stated the recycling company still has not gotten a sign to put on the bins and she spoke with her husband about making a sign from plywood and paint so that it could be put on a post by the bins. Clerk Hall stated her husband thought he could. Trustee Leffler stated they may have scrap plywood if needed.

**MINUTES:**

Trustee Leffler made a motion to accept the minutes as read. 2nd by Trustee McGraw

Roll Call Vote:

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Trustee Olson made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. 2nd by Trustee Hoefer.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustee McGraw, Simkins, Olson, Leffler and Hoefer. Motion Passed

President Rogers stated CD#32756 in the water fund account is due to expire on October 19,2018. President Rogers asked Treasurer Whitcomb what he recommended to do with the CD. Treasurer Whitcomb stated he would recommend that it be rolled over because the money is not needed at this time. President Rogers asked the board what they wanted to do with the CD.

Trustee Leffler made the motion to let CD #32756 be rolled over. 2nd by Trustee McGraw.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustee Leffler, McGraw, Olson, Hoefer and Simkins. Motion passed

**BILLS:**

Trustee Olson made a motion to pay the bills. 2nd by Trustee Simkins.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Speed Limits Signs:

President Rogers commented the board has talked about the speed limit signs so much that she forgot about them and she is not sure where the discussion left off. President Rogers asked Trustee Hoefer if he was going to check with the county about how high and where we could put the signs. Trustee Hoefer answered he was going to find out about the road at the end of Main Street. Trustee Leffler stated she remembers the only signs we could put up are the ones here in town that we could not put any on the county roads.

President Rogers asked if the only place we wanted a sign was here by the building or were we going to put a sign on the block by the church or somewhere around there. Trustee Olson answered the one on Main Street by the garage was the main concern. President Rogers then asked Clerk Hall to call Julie so they can have the area marked so they can dig.

President Rogers stated she thinks there use to be a sign out by the pole but she is trying to think of where by the church so no one backs into it. Treasurer Whitcomb stated it would be best before the church so everyone would have time to slow down before they get to the church.

President Rogers suggested having one coming from the other direction instead of two from the same way. Trustee Olson commented either way as long as it stops the speeding. President Rogers stated we will just start with the one here by the building. President Rogers commented she thinks that West Street and Main Street are the 2 streets people like to zip down. Treasurer Whitcomb stated he does not believe there is a sign on the east side of Main Street coming from the south.

Trustee Hoefer mentioned he believes the speeding is mostly from people in town. Trustee Leffler commented she had been in her garage; someone she knew sped by and she immediately go on her phone and called them. President Rogers suggested if anyone knows who is speeding to write them a letter or call them if it would do any good.

Water Ordinance:

President Rogers asked if everyone had a chance to look over the water ordinance, there are a couple things that she didn’t understand or did not realize the village did them or even why they do it. President Rogers continued to state the main item that needs addressed is when someone buys an empty house with an unpaid water bill that we charge the new owner for the unpaid bill and she feels that is unfair to the new owner.

Trustee Olson asked where exactly does President Rogers see that in the ordinance because she cannot locate it. President Rogers answered it is not in the ordinance the only thing she sees is that we can put a lien on the property but we have never done that. President Rogers stated maybe someone else could see it, just because we have done it in the past does not mean it’s in the ordinance.

President Rogers stated Section 5 of the ordinance states that landlord and tenant alike are responsible for the water charges but that is not new people, and Section 4 item E states.” the Village Board of Trustees reserves the right to order the Village Clerk to file with the Village’s Attorney, notice to place a lien upon any premises with past due water usage charges,” that’s the only thing she see’s to do with a house. Trustee Olson asked if that was normal practice. President Rogers answered yes that is normal practice.

Trustee Olson asked when was it ever started that the new owner has to pay the old bill. President Rogers answered it has been done for so long she’s not sure when it started or where it came from. Treasurer Whitcomb stated Section 4 item D states ,”water service will not be reinstated until all past due bills, penalties and current charges are paid in full.” President Rogers stated it does not state the people moving in are responsible for the bill. Trustee Simkins commented it does not state who is to pay the bill the ordinance should state former tenant or owner. Treasurer Whitcomb commented that one family member moves out and another moves in you’ll still end up with the same bill. President Rogers stated they would have to put the bill in their name and you’re not going to send the old bill to them if they don’t live there. Treasurer Whitcomb stated he meant is to have just the name of the water bill go back and forth from family members; you’ll never get the money collected. President Rogers stated it does not matter whose name the bill is in they get charged the $50.00 each time they change it.

Trustee McGraw confirmed that the problem is when someone moves out of the house with a past due bill the new tenant/owner has to pay the past due bill. President Rogers stated that is the way the ordinance is set up now. President Rogers continued to state the reason why this was brought up is because someone bought a house with a past due bill and a new meter was need because during the winter it froze and broke and the village is to collect the past due balance and the cost of the meter from the new owners which she has a problem with.

President Rogers explained we really do not know how much the past due bill is, that we are going by what Treasurer Whitcomb thought it was when he last read the meter. Clerk Hall stated she looked in the book that shows where the meters are located, she found the old owners name, address and meter number so she tried to locate any information on the past due bill but had no luck.

President Rogers then asked Treasurer Whitcomb how long ago he read the meters. Treasurer Whitcomb answered about 7 years ago. Trustee Olson asked if the property was vacant then. Treasurer Whitcomb answered no; it was the person who just moved put because the old owner had passed away by then. President Rogers commented the old owner passed away, the kids took over the estate and rented it out. President Rogers stated Treasurer Whitcomb thinks he could look it up but believes it is around $57.00 and she feels the village does not need to fuss about that. President Rogers stated it does need to be in the ordinance or how is the village going to handle it in the future.

President Rogers commented we still have the issue of the new meter, the only way she can think of to handle meters breaking after residence move is if they do not have heat is to take out the meter so they don’t freeze and break. President Rogers asked Treasurer Whitcomb how many meters they have had to replace this year due to that reason, like 3. Treasurer Whitcomb answered he believes it is 2 so far this year and winter has not gotten here yet. Treasurer Whitcomb commented the cost should come from the person who sold the house. President Rogers stated last month she stated we would look into it and forgot to assign it but she has spoken to Clerk Hall and she’s going to call and speak to the lawyer this week to see if we can recoup the funds but it may be too late. President Rogers commented the lawyer may say the village may have to write it off. Trustee Olson asked if someone passes away, can it come from the estate. President Rogers answered she’s not sure if it can be done legally and if it can, how to do it. Clerk Hall mentioned when her mother passed away as executor of the will she was responsible for the bills and once the estate was settled any unpaid bills was taken off the top of the money for the estate. Clerk Hall also mentioned if the house was to be sold then the unpaid bills come off the top of the selling price.

Trustee Leffler stated she spoke to her friend who is the water clerk in Galesburg and she stated if someone runs up a bill and it is shut off they just have it put in their 18 year olds name and there is nothing they can do about it as long as the connection fee is paid even if they know the people and what they are doing. Trustee Olson stated she feels the person who owes the bill is who is responsible for the bill not the new owners and as a business if it is not paid you have to take the loss that is what insurance is for.

Trustee McGraw mentioned possibly taking a person to collections if the bill is not paid. Trustee Olson commented by telling people if their bills are not paid we will send them to collections may keep people from moving to North Henderson. President Rogers stated by staying on top of the people who are late has helped out a lot, people are getting their bills paid. Trustee Leffler commented in Rio there had been a water main break and the village clerk told her she had gotten numerous calls from people who owed money wanting to come in a pay their bill to get the water back on.

Trustee Olson asked so what do we need to do. President Rogers commented she likes the idea of adding the fact we will take them to collections. Trustee Olson asked sending them to collections after how long of a certain period. President Rogers commented she is tired of chasing after people, and it is always the same ones, when she goes out to shut off the water they come out with the payment, why can’t they just pay the bill. President Rogers continued to comment the electric company does not knock on your door if you’re late the just shut you off.

Trustee Olson asked where the addition should be put in the ordinance. Clerk Hall suggested putting it in Section 4 letter E and making the line about the lien letter F. President Rogers asked how long should we let the unpaid bills go before we send them to collections. Trustee Olson answered we should give them at least 3 months. Clerk Hall stated when someone hasn’t paid by the due date she puts a note on the bill letting them know they need to pay both months then by the 3rd month she give them 10 days from the bill date or they are to be shut off. Trustee Olson stated it is not the ones being shut off that they go to collections but those who have moved and left an unpaid bill. President Rogers commented back when she has had to use collection agencies if you did not collect you did not pay and she did not know if it was still that way. Treasurer Whitcomb stated he believes it is still that way. Trustee Olson asked if we should table this and look into it more. President Rogers answered yes we could if that is what the board wanted to do.

Trustee Olson mad a motion to table the water Ordinance in order to look in to it more. 2nd by Trustee Leffler.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Clerk Hall mentioned in the packets there was a sample of a reminder letter she found when going through some files on the computer. Clerk Hall continued to mention all it says is:

1. The date the reminder goes out (the date meters are read)
2. The past due amount they owe
3. How many months they are behind (exp. Jan., Feb., and March)
4. Date the amount is due by or water will be shut off.

Clerk Hall stated she would like to begin to use this reminder if the board approves of it. President Rogers stated she likes the notice because she has something she can show the resident that they did get a notice of the shut off date. Trustee Olson stated she approved of the notice.

Clerk Hall also mentioned the other item in their folder is something else she located and thought it would be nice to send out with the water bills after the board is finished with the water ordinance. Clerk Hall stated that it show the resident what all the different charges are and how much they are, when the meters are read, when the bill is due, how/where the bills are paid and about any bounced check charges.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Movie Night:

President Rogers commented Trustee Chandlee brought up at the last meeting about the movie night at the park even though she is not here we could still decide if the village still wanted to do it. Trustee Leffler asked if the village wanted to do the potluck thing again with the movie. Trustee Olson stated her husband and herself may not be able to do it with everything else they have going on but would set up the projector and screen if need be. President Rogers stated the screen would be nice because they liked what was used last year.

President Rogers asked if they wanted to set a date. Trustee Olson asked if they wanted it in October. President Rogers answered yes, because there is only 2 weeks left in September. Trustee Olson asked if the board wanted a Friday or Saturday. Treasurer Whitcomb asked if they were going to do Halloween again. President Rogers asked when Halloween is because maybe they could incorporate the 2 together. Treasurer Whitcomb stated it may not work because trick or treat and the movie times would be the same hours.

Trustee Olson suggested October 6th kicking off fall. President Rogers stated the first 2 weekends are Spoon River Drive and she is not sure how many people would be doing that. Trustee Simkins suggested October 20th. Trustee Olson commented the board could plan the 20thand if it need to be changed it could be discussed at the next meeting and there would still be time to put in notice and decide who will be doing what. Trustee Leffler stated she would make the chili. President Rogers asked if 7:00 pm would be a good time to start. Trustee Leffler stated to start earlier say around 6 so people have time to eat and it is starting to get dark around 7.

President Rogers confirmed it is set for October 20th from 6 pm to when ever and the movie will be decided at the next meeting.

Park Request:

President Rogers stated the next item on the agenda in the Park Request and that it was kind of late. President Rogers continued to state the Methodist Church is having Praise in the Park and that there wasn’t time to get the board together to make sure it was okay for the church to use the park. President Rogers stated she gave them the okay to use the park. President Rogers stated the event is set for Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 4:30 to whenever and that the Praise Choir from Monmouth will be there and they will be serving hot dogs, brats, chips and ice cream that will all be free. President Rogers commented this is a way to get all the churches together for an outreach to the community. President Rogers asked the board if anyone would care if she took a couple tables for the ball diamond take them to the village park and leave them there since there wasn’t that many at the park. No one had any objections.

President Rogers asked if anyone on the board had anything they wanted to discuss. Trustee Hoefer stated he has heard from other villages that you can hire a county police officer to come in and write citations on properties that are not maintained but it would cost the village money. Trustee Hoefer continued to state it would be nice for one, to have a presence of an officer in town to make people aware but also by having them write citations it would help make the town look better. Trustee Hoefer gave an example of the house on West Street where there have been letters sent and calls made by the property still does not stay maintained whereas if the owner starts getting citations he may start to keep it clean. Trustee Hoefer stated he thinks it would cost $15.00 an hour but he wasn’t sure where the money from the citations would go, if it would be to the county or to the village. Treasurer Whitcomb stated it would go to the county. Trustee Hoefer commented since the officer was working for the village the money should go to the village. President Rogers stated it could be put on the agenda for next month so we have time to investigate it.

President Rogers stated she had a couple calls this past month and one really upset her. President Rogers continued to state Ann Nalls dog was attacked by the pit bull next door to her, she had to take her dog to the vet and it needed stitches. President Rogers stated she told Ann to call the Human Society in Aledo to report it and that is what they told her to do because they cannot do anything until the 2nd or 3rd time. President Rogers mentioned Ann was walking her dog on a leash and the other dog came out of his yard and attacked Ann’s dog. President Rogers commented to just keep an eye out for that dog.

President Rogers stated the other complaint she took with a grain of salt, it was Colton Grupy’s father-in-law and it was the day after the dog attack. President Rogers continued to state he was complaining that he could not sit in his yard because of the neighbors music was to loud and wanted to know if there was a noise ordinance. President Rogers explained she told him she would check and get back with him, when she called him back he did not answer and she dropped it. Clerk Hall stated he had contacted her she told him she would check and get back with him, but when she tried he never answered nor did he call her back. President Rogers asked Mr. Tucker if when he was mayor didn’t they try and get a noise ordinance but since it couldn’t be enforced they dropped it. Mr. Tucker stated he believes there is an ordinance. Clerk Hall stated she has looked in all the ordinance books and could not find one but she will look again. President Rogers commented that it was decided since it could not be proven how high the music is that it was dropped. President Rogers commented it would be like a police officer trying to prove someone was speeding without the radar.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Tucker commented that when he was mayor they had a police officer come in and talk about hiring a cop. Mr. Tucker continued to comment that it was going to be about $50.00 an hour and only about 10 hours a month so he wouldn’t be here enough to have people even notice. Mr. Tucker stated they could write citations and the owners would have to go to the county to pay for them, also then the speed limits could be enforced. President Rogers commented it would get the board out of giving citations and having to handle the fines. Mr. Tucker stated there is a web site that you can go on that will tell you everything you need to know to put up speed limit signs. Mr. Tucker continued to state the site is something like NUTUD; he would check and get back with the board.

President Rogers commented Mercer County Better Together had their last meeting and 2 communities backed out of the grant so those communities who submitted will get what they asked for as long as Looser Flake gives all the money that was asked for. President Rogers believes they will.

Trustee Hoefer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Trustee Olson

The September 13, 2018 Village of North Henderson Trustee Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm. The next meeting will be October 11, 2018.

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Melody Hall Carol Rogers

Village Clerk Village President