Village of Kincaid

115 Central Ave. Kincaid, IL. 62540

Time- 6:00 P.M.

Monday, March 24, 2025

Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was brought to order by Mayor Robert Morris.

The Village Treasurer took Roll Call. Kip- Here, Jason- Here, Gary- Here, Dannie- Here, Sue- here, Mike- Here.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all who attended the meeting.

Committee Meeting:

Discuss Easter Egg Hunt- Trustee Dees said he was not sure if they were going to be doing any cooking or anything down at the park, we can do something. Brenda was present and said she came over to see why this was on the agenda. But she was thinking, since he mentioned it, maybe open the bathrooms. She said they have never asked, but we have people down there that, you know. Mayor Morris said we can do that; we can open the bathrooms. She said you’ve got a bunch of little kids, and we don't have a bathroom open. Dees asked about maybe getting some drinks down there for the kids. Brenda stated the church usually brings drinks and stuff, and we take a popcorn machine down there and usually make popcorn, but that is totally up to you guys. Dees said he didn't want to step on anybody’s toes. Brenda said they usually don't cook, but the church buys stuff and donates and has things down there and has some little games, and like she said they usually take Dales popcorn machine down there and make popcorn. Morris asked if we gave them a donation? Merano said yes, we did. Breanda sked if anyone picked it up? Merano said she mailed it to Kirchhoff. Brenda said she was thinking and that is why she came over, because she thought whoever was putting it on the agenda maybe wanted the bathrooms open or something. Like last year they had a pregnant lady down there, and she is sure there’s kids that need to use the bathrooms. Morris said yes, they will be open.

Discuss Police Department-Lawrence said he put this on the agenda and again probably nothing will happen until after the election is over with. But he wanted to put it in, you know a few people’s minds or whatever that he thinks we should be looking at a few things this time and not jumping the gun on a few things. He made a few notes. He would like to, or first the finance committee look at numbers to see what we have available. He wants to look at Kincaid, not some other town or community. Looking at what we have, I want to pay someone what they are worth. I believe in that. I would like to have someone that would like to be vested here. Some type of contract, we know how contracts work. You know, they are here today or gone tomorrow. But that is just a few things that he didn't know if anybody else had any feedback on that. I would love to have a phone number back again in the office and as far as whoever is on duty at the time. I mean that’s a few things that I think that, but we've got to come to a decision. We want a fulltime chief. What do we have on finances? A full-time deputy and a part time deputy also. Again, if we are going to raise the stakes, we are going to look at what we can afford. With benefits. Kip said they had Beverly run some numbers, and basically for this last fiscal year, correct me if I’m wrong Beverly, I think we appropriated one hundred and twenty thousand ...Beverly said one hundred and twenty-five thousand. And that did not include what we are getting from Tovey, which I think is like eight thousand four hundred a year. So, with that being said, I'll let Jason tell you what his conversation was with the candidate that they interviewed. But with his expectations as far as salary and depending on what kind of commitment that we could get from Seath as far as how many hours, we are still going to be able to stay within that one hundred- and twenty-five-thousand-dollar budget that we did for appropriations. Just with a full-time chief, you know, someone that ears that position, I don't think we need to give it to anybody right out of the gate. Thats just my opinion I think somebody needs to come in and prove themselves over a period of time and we do an evaluation and then we can consider that. But with that, as a salary, forty-five-to-fifty-hour week officer, alone with that we can get like fifteen to nineteen like we did before. I don't know how Seath is. Is he still on board? But I don't know what kind of commitment we can get. We are not out with the appropriations. I mean we are not talking out of line. But Jason needs to tell you how the interview went because I believe this guy would be an asset for the village of Kincaid. Just for the mere fact of the matter, he is a no bullshitter guy. I spoke to and reached out and spoke to a few different people that know him. I spoke to a retired chief of police from Pawnee and came with high recommendations for this guy. And you know, she retired and was on board, I mean chief of police for Pawnee for years. She mentored him when he was with Divernon, and we kind of really need to restore that faith, you know. And I think, in my opinion if you want a discussion, this guys is a good candidate. In my opinion, he is not off the rails, he is asking for seventy thousand a year. You get what you pay for. Morris said, but he also said something about a deal with another guy. Dees said he has another officer in Divernon. But he wants thirty an hour. So that is sixty-two thousand a year, but it would be him and the other full-time guy. And then we would have a part timer. Lawrence said he really thinks we need to look at our finances and then come up with a game plan. Paso stated we also have another applicant that's thrown their name in the hat. And I personally, I think we can look over some of the numbers. We can hand it to the new mayor and say here is what we came up with, we can do the due diligence. But personally, I think that as close as we are to the election, I think we need to wait until after the election. Yes, we need to start working on it and who knows how many more applications we might get. Nelson said It needs to be a decision that whoever the new mayor is. It's a lot of money; it is a big chunk of the budget. And you know, I mean, looking back over and going through some of the purchases and that I mean, I think, you know, not that they were inappropriate, but there' just a lot of repetitive kind of purchases there that I think we could do a little belt tightening. and that would help. Then you could afford a little bit more. Warren said he thinks that also along with the wages, we need to look and see, we need to make sure that this officer we hire is going to work for the city of Kincaid, not worry about Taylorville or Pawnee or somewhere else or going out on special raids, and things like that. Work for the city of Kincaid. take care of the streets of Kincaid. Take care of the things in Kincaid that we want to take care of, and that is very important. I think, to us and the citizens. We need to concentrate on Kincaid. and we failed on that. Nelson said he talked to Jason today. Matter of fact, he called me today. His name is Jason Marshall he is from Riverton; he is currently working in Riverton now and the one thing he lives in Pawnee, and I asked him today, I said, how long would it take you to get from your front doorstep to the Village? He said, I can make it in five minutes if I break the law. If it is an emergency, I can make it in five. He said, under normal circumstances, he can be here in ten minutes. And another thing too, that I like about Jason is his wife works for the Village of Pawnee. So, there is municipality knowledge in that household. I think that holds a little bit of weight, I really really do. And he worked for Divernon, he is currently working for Riverton. Dees said he was all for the ordinances. Nelson also stated He is not afraid. But to answer your question Mike, he is not out of line, we did run the numbers, and we appropriated one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. I think we are going to land at under ten thousand and those numbers did not include what we are getting from Tovey which in my opinion, and I now we can't vote on it, but we sincerely need to give them some money back because we did not service them in January, February, or March. So that's something that I think needs to be done. We need to give three months credit or something. We can't say hey we are back, and I don’t' want them to say oh you.... Paso said the other thing with any of these applicants that we have to consider is who needs the benefits package? Because that benefit package is what like another eight thousand and then it’s more like eighty-one hundred, no eighty-three hundred so if they already carry insurance like the guy from Pawnee, his wife has insurance on him. But that makes a big difference because we also have to pay into IMRF we have to pay into FICA and everything else for them. But vision, dental, and health insurance is a pretty hefty package. So that would make a difference because if they don't need it then we could compensate and everybody walk away with it by giving them a little bit more money, including what we don’t' pay out in benefits. And he will probably get more comp days than what he gets now. I think now is a good time to look at it and try to at least get something down on paper. And so, the new board coming in can have something to start with and they don't have to just, you know, come in cold and start doing all the legwork on it. Merano said she did want to say something about Tovey, the check that we received from January to February we sent it back. Nelson said he felt better about that. Lawrence asked Officer Hubbs if we got our taser back? Hubbs said yes, he got everything back and all the equipment back. Lawrence said he knew there was a log on the computer and then he knew there was a log that was started and put in the safe. Hubbs again said yes, he got everything back from Tim last week. As far as the white squad car has been moved around town, the first state statute states that it cannot be moved by anybody but a law enforcement officer, it has lights in it. They can be active, then there is impersonation a police officer, so it cannot be moved. If it needs to be moved it needs to be ran through him and he will move it whenever it needs to be moved. But the thing also needs to be cleaned out to where there is no police equipment in it. It was moved over here and now it is up by Caseys, and he didn't know what is in there. There is ammo in all these squads so if somebody gets into the squad and grabs the ammo, we are all liable. It just has to be moved by a law enforcement officer. Nelson stated the only reason we even discussed selling that was because DJ said we didn't need it and he is no longer with us so I would take it for whatever it's worth. Seath stated he would not sell that car, its fixed, it is not going anywhere, its paid off. If you get somebody in here like Jason, he is already talking about it. If it gets sold he is going to try and buy another one. There is no reason to sell it. It is paid off, it is not hurting nothing, we just put money in it to fix it. There is no reason to sell it. You are just going to turn around and spend more money on it, I mean you are buying something else because if you have two or three officers? You cannot run up two squads, if one goes down, then you are in a pickle. We just to just keep it, if we use it cool if not we have it just in case.

Further Discussion on water shut-off ordinance- Paso said what she is saying here is that when we did this, and our attorney went to court or represented us, according to this ruling, that we have violated due process rights. So, this is something that we are probably going to need to sit down. I have a few notes on it, but I am not the board. So, I think we need to redact part of this, I think it needs to be taken out. Redact it and in turn we put down that its fourteen days. And I'd like to see maybe a .......What is our reconnect fee for the water? one hundred dollars. fifty to shut off and fifty to turn on. So, if they have a past due bill, I just think that I would say eighty percent of the time, I don't believe people are willfully just not paying their water bill. I think that people get behind. I think that they lose their job or kids get sick or whatever may happen. But I think we can make something a little bit more equitable so it's fair for other people. And we do not violate people rights by turning off their water. Clare Duran said she thinks Sue is a little confused, it isn't because of not paying their bill, it’s for not paying an ordinance. Paso said she knows but it was all due to water shut off, and nuisance yard, not cutting your grass, it’s a violation. But I think we just need to probably sit down and maybe come up with some new ways we can weave this in and make sense of this ordinance or redact it and reconstruct one that is a little bit more equitable. And I know Kip and I have talked about the possibility of, and I am not real sure how we would even do this, but everybody falls on hard times at various points in our life and maybe we can even do something and have, I don't know, if my water bill is fifty five dollars and fifty cents and I wanted to pay fifty six that extra fifty cents can go into a round up fund so that people who maybe are having a hard time, not that they are in there draining it every month or anything, but a one a year kind of thing, say, you know, we lost our jobs, whatever, you know can we get help to reconnect or put it towards our water bill, but we would have certain limits. Some kind of good welfare type of ordinance built into that. So that is kind of where I think we need to go. I think we will have to call Frank and see about how we go about redacting and replacing it, that is kind of out of my pay grade.

VISITORS-

VISITORS- A PERSON SHALL BE PERMITTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS OFFICIALS UNDER THE RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE VILLAGE OF KINCAID (3 MINUTES PER PERSON) 5ILCS 120.2.06g

John Durbin said he wanted to talk about the water and that, is it legal or not legal to turn someone’s water off due to an ordinance violation? Kip said yes, it is illegal, and we learned that the hard way. John stated the attorney should have known. Kip said it is legal to turn someone’s water off for not paying their bill, but it is illegal to shut it off for an ordinance, as long as he is on the board it won't happen.

Tony Pezze asked what the story is with our lawyer. Morris stated he doesn't come to the committee meetings, Pezze responded and said he doesn't come to our regular meetings either. Morris said he wasn't sure why he wasn't there, he was supposed to, but he didn't get paid.

Steve Brown asked if the current board has been looking for an alternate attorney or somebody else? Morris said that it is up to the next mayor.

Louis Broccardo said he was going to ask about the police thing, but Sue kind of already answered it for him. He used to budget, and he was curious if the one hundred- and twenty-five-thousand-dollar appropriations could include benefits. That is all he wanted to ask, and it was pretty much answered.

Morris stated we just needed a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment-

Trustee Nelson made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Gibson.

Nelson spoke up and said he wanted to give Trustee Gibson a twenty-five-dollar gift card to Mimis kitchen from all of us, and thanked Dannie for all he has done. Nelson also wished everyone a good luck with the upcoming election, and said he was looking forward to working with everybody.

Treasurer Merano went on with the adjournment, all ayes to adjourn. The time was 6:22 P.M.