Village Of Kincaid

115 Central Ave. Kincaid IL. 62540

Time- 6:00 p.m.

September 23, 2024

Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was brought to order by Mayor Robert Morris. Roll call was taken by the Village clerk.

Roll Call- Paso-here, Lawrence-here, Gibson-here, Warren-here, Dees-here, Nelson-here.

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

Special Guest-Chastain & Associates LLC- Nobody from Chastain & Associates was present.

Special Guest- Christian Vacker to discuss employee social media contract. Christian said he has lived in Kincaid his whole life; he has friends and family who have also lived here. He started working here because he wanted to improve the community he lives in. The problem he has with this contract is that the board has essentially told him that his voice is no longer important. He cannot discuss things with the people in the community. He also doesn't believe that the contract is constitutional, and it was never voted on. He has also read through the entire employee handbook a couple of times and there are things in the contract that are not included in the employee handbook. Specifically, the employee usage. The last thing he wanted to say is that he thinks it is a little shady that the village is trying to silence what the employees have to say and keep the people from knowing what is going on. He just asks that the board thinks about the contract and discuss it and at least vote on it at a board meeting. Attorney Rahar said he looked at the contract with the mayor’s instruction, and he spoke with the clerk about it as well. He understands his hesitancy and his concerns. He quoted the movie "Tombstone" as an example. We aren't saying you can't use Facebook, twitter, X, snapchat and whatever else. We aren't saying you can't use it we aren't saying you can't use it as an employee, we are just saying be smart with it use common sense. He doesn't believe it inflicts on anyone’s constitutional rights or freedom of speech. I don't believe that it stops anyone from using social media, it is just saying that when you do use it don't put the Village in a negative light and don't do any of these things that I call "act like an adult" paragraphs. Which are don't promote discrimination and things like that. I don't know if it infringes on anyone’s rights there, I think it is just saying hey, I know social media has a lot of benefits because it does, but it also has a lot of risks. And to your point, a lot of municipalities have instilled and used this. Chrisitan said yes, he knows that Springfield does, his issue is just that essentially if the board or somebody doesn't like it, he can either be written up or fired. Whereas Springfield specifically calls out what you can't say. Rahar said he believes this came from the Illinois Municipal League. This isn't something we specifically created either, it’s a generic form so your point I suppose or your concerns I do understand, and it may not be perfect, but it is something that the Village wants everyone to sign off on. This is not in the employee handbook. Christian asked isn't this something that needs to be in the employee handbook and the ordinances. At least state specifically the employee usage part. The handbook only talks about employee usage of village owned computers. It doesn't talk about what you do on your own social media or on your own computer. Rahar said that is a good -point and he will look into it. He needs to look at the inclusion and he will do that if the Mayor wants him to. Morris shook his head yes. Rahar will look into it deeper on behalf of all employees. Nelson said in general he thinks that the employee handbook needs revamped and looked through and he appreciates Christians comments.

Committee Meeting

Discuss Extra Police Vehicle- Lawrence said he has talked about it a couple times. DJ said he talked to Patricia, she said with the last census that it was finally published that we are two hundred and thirty-seven dollars over on household income to get the grants. She said the money is already lacking to get the grant anyway so even if we did qualify the funding is short and vehicles are less likely to get approved. Lawrence said he didn't know what vehicle if we have an extra one out there. Mathon stated it would be the white one, it has the most miles. It has over one hundred thousand miles. Morris said it would have to be put up for bids. Lawrence asked the clerk to put it on the next agenda.

Discuss Property at 1102 Springfield St- Trustee Nelson said he is sure everyone is aware with this property on Springfield St. It is time for us to put it up for sealed bids and do something with it. I propose that we put this on the next agenda as far as sealed bids with a reserve. We have six hundred twenty-nine dollars and sixty-nine cents into the property. Jarred has some fees on top of that. He would like to set something up that we basically in this sealed bid have a reserve on it of some sort. Whoever purchases this has three months (90 days) to tear down and fill in the hole. Trustee Nelson wanted to make sure whoever buys this has the contingency to tear it down within ninety days. Lawrence said it is all boarded up right now but wants this on the next agenda.

Discuss American Legion Solar Panels- Dale Adomitis was present for the Legion and said what they are wanting or like for the city to do. They lease the building with the village, they have a 99-year lease. They want to put solar in. The city owns the property, we own the building. We would like the city to sign the property over so they can apply for the grant to get solar, It will cost around eighty thousand dollars. They own the south end of the parking. they will not be going into the grass. Wolfe asked if they are just wanting to use the south end of the parking lot. Dale answered yes. The property would have to be signed over to them. Members are getting shorter and shorter. Somewhere down the line this building will end up back to the village. Lawrence said this will have to be put on the next agenda for a vote.

Discuss Halloween/Trunk or Treat- Trustee Warren asked if it was the 31 of October that we are doing trunk or treat. He wanted confirmation for the 30 and 31st trick or treating for the community. It was confirmed.

Discuss Property at 117 State St.- Lawrence said this is the property behind the cardinal building. We purchased it for eight hundred and eighteen dollars. We snagged it because we could so no one else from out of state came in and bought this. I ask that we put this up for sealed bids as well if we can put that on the next agenda. Nelson asked what the minimum bid would be. A one thousand dollar minimum would be on this property.

Discuss Lake/Park- Trustee Warren said the spillway still needs fixed. The lake is low enough now that we can get that taken care of. So, I would like to put that on the next agenda that we get the dam fixed and get it safer out there. The other thing is the park, talked to Mike Harris. They would like to take the old fence down and replace it with new, he said he would donate the old fence so maybe we can talk about putting up a dog park down there for the city. He just wanted to let the village know it is still in the works.

Discuss Putting old Easement up for bids- Foreman Wolfe said that this is just for old easements if we are sure we aren’t ever going to use again just putting them up to the landowners or what not. This discussion will be tabled and put on the next agenda.

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

A gentleman asked if the Village could give them an update with the house next to the methodist Church to the east, what's going on with that or what progress is being made. Mayor Morris said we have been working on that for quite some time now. There have been several calls to the owner, Jarred has a copy of those as well. Originally it was going to be sold to the church for six thousand dollars. They then changed the price to ten thousand dollars. The house is falling in and only getting worse, and this has been going on and on and on. As of now stuff is being sent from our attorney to them. We have fines and liens on it with no luck. We have been doing everything we can to help the church get it for extra parking and stuff.

John Durbin asked how much money we have in attorney fees and stuff on that property. Lawrence did not say much at all, it was just turned over to Jarred recently.

Another Gentlemen asked what about the ordinances with cars and trucks in driveways that don't run. Mayor Morris said as long as they are plated. Mathon stated as long as they are plated, and the tires aired up. Just must be in running condition, as long as they have valid plates there isn't much we can do. A gentleman spoke up and said valid plates he understands but is that part of an ordinance here it's not a state law. Mathon replied, yes not a state law. Mathon said the biggest issue for us is how do I prove that it doesn't run, I can't force someone to go start their car. Unless the board limits how many vehicles you can have there isn't much that can be done. Morris said another thing too is if you get it changed then you have to deal with the Secretary of State because they have laws out there.

Kerry Vacker said she just recently read the entire Open Meetings Act on the Illinois General Assembly website, and she knows a lot of people have been concerned about the closed sessions and how many closed sessions we have because they aren't really supposed to be used unless they fall under a few exceptions. When you do go into closed sessions it says you are supposed to state exactly what you are going into closed session for and that is never done, it's just voted to go into closed session. It is on the agenda, but it is the same thing every agenda and it never changes. If you are going into closed to talk about employment problems with the same person for the last two years that is just crazy in my opinion. So, if you could start doing the closed meetings correctly that would be amazing because the town deserves to know what exactly is being discussed in closed sessions. You can't take votes in closed sessions, and I assume everybody knows that, so I am hoping that isn't happening. And I would like to speak on the employee contract. She understands why this was made but she thinks that if you are going to have the employees or the board members sign it, it needs to be voted on and not just handed to the employees one random day after not being discussed at all. She also wanted to ask if everyone has done their Open Meetings Act training that they are supposed to do within their ninety days of being elected or hired. She hadn’t heard it in any meetings before when Gary was elected so she just wanted to see.

Adjournment-

Trustee Nelson made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Dees. All Ayes. The time was 6:30 PM.