



Village of Savoy

Robert C. McCleary Municipal Center
611 North Dunlap Avenue
Savoy, IL

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF TRUSTEE STUDY SESSION

DATE: May 13, 2020

PLACE: ROBERT C. MCCLEARY MUNICIPAL CENTER
611 North Dunlap Avenue
Savoy, IL 61874

TRUSTEES PRESENT: President Joan E. Dykstra, Trustees John Brown,
Dee Shonkwiler, and Bill Vavrik

TRUSTEES PRESENT
VIA VOICE

CONFERENCE CALL: Trustees Jan Niccum and Heather Mangian

TRUSTEES ABSENT: A. J. Ruggieri

OFFICERS AND

PERSONNEL PRESENT: Levi Kopmann, Acting Village Manager
Billie Jean Krueger, Village Clerk
Dennis Donaldson, Village Treasurer

GUESTS PRESENT: Seth Yoder, 104 Blazing Star, Savoy, IL
President of Prairie Fields Sub. HOA

CONVENED: 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNED: 8:20 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL TAKEN

Chairman Brown called the monthly open and public Board of Trustees Study Session to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called of President Dykstra and the Trustees, with all answering present, Trustees Niccum and Mangian answering present via voice conference call, and Trustee Ruggieri was absent, and a quorum declared.

2. BUSINESS:

**A. DISCUSSION ON STREET PARKING – PRAIRIE
FIELDS HOA**

Seth Yoder, President of the Prairie Fields Subdivision Homeowners Association, stated he wanted to bring up to President Dykstra and the Trustees a reoccurring issue of parked cars/trucks on the east side of Tickseed near the entrance from Old Church Road. He said these cars have caused accidents, traffic flow, and visibility issues. He asked President Dykstra, Trustees, and Staff to perform a study to see if it necessary to post “no parking” restrictions in this area. Then he could reach out to residents in this area before a decision is made.

Trustee Vavrik stated he had experienced bad driver habits upon entering Tickseed from Old Church Road and all the way down to Gentian Street.

Trustee Niccum stated he was concerned that if the Village takes away three blocks of parking on the east side of Tickseed, where are the landscaping, lawncare trucks and residents’ cars going to park?

Trustee Niccum also mentioned that a parking study was done on Wesley and nothing was done with the results.

Trustee Vavrik stated that even if the residents are not allowed to park on the east side of Tickseed, the Prairie Fields Subdivision HOA cannot enforce it.

President Dykstra commented that the Village does not have a ton of money right now to do this proposed study, but it might be done “in house”.

Trustee Brown asked Seth if he knew anyone personally who had an accident at this location. Yoder responded he knew of an animal being killed, but not an accident. Trustee Brown stated he might be able to check into any accident reports in this area and it might be a better idea to wait on the study until school is in session.

Seth Yoder stated he did not really expect the Village to take immediate action on this complaint, but just wanted President Dykstra and the Trustees to be aware of the problem.

B. DISCUSSION ON TITLE OF VILLAGE MANAGER OR VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

President Dykstra explained that since the Village is nearing the release of the advertisement for a new Village Manager and put out publicly to candidates, one of the issues that some Trustees have discussed over the years was the appropriate title of our hired administrator. Dykstra also explained that since the Village of Savoy has a Trustee-Village form of government, which is one of the standard forms of government according to Illinois Law, she believed the Trustees need to revisit the correct terminology for our leader to better reflect our actual governmental operation, and this difference in responsibility is minimal, but does involve who is responsible for appointing non-elected officers, such as Treasurer. So, this will eliminate confusion as to statutory responsibility.

President Dykstra stated she believed it would be fairer and more accurate to our potential candidates before they apply for the position to revert to the title of Village Administrator, and she wanted the Trustees to discuss the pros and cons of this issue at tonight's study session meeting.

President Dykstra explained Ordinance No. 2002-13 passed on June 12, 2002 and stated it seemed at that time that the title of "Manager" was higher than an "Administrator".

President Dykstra presented a survey of titles by municipality listing those municipalities that used the Title of Administrator and Title of Manager and municipalities where there is no Administrator of Manager, and the President/Mayor and Trustees implement day-to-day administration.

President Dykstra also presented Forms of Municipal Government as follows:

- Trustee-Village Form
- Aldermanic-City Form
- Commission Form
- Manager Form
- Strong Mayor Form
- Administrative Form

Trustee Shonkwiler stated the Village of Savoy is not a statutory Manager form of government and believes Savoy should go back to the title of Administrator.

Trustee Niccum stated that when Dick Helton was hired as the Village Manager, "Manager" was a more modern name.

Discussion was held that it would take a referendum to change the Clerk to be elected, rather than appointed as it is now, but the Treasurer should be elected when Savoy's population reaches 10,000.

Trustee Niccum stated that an Administrator would not have the authority to hire and fire, but the President/Mayor would have that power. He stated that the present Treasurer had been hired by the Village Manager and was not even presented to the President/Mayor or Trustees. Niccum stated he believed Ordinance No. 2002-13 was a mistake and should be corrected now. Also, the Clerk and Treasurer should be hire/appointed by the President/Mayor.

Trustee Brown agreed that the issue changing Village Manager to Village Administrator needed to be corrected now.

Trustee Vavrik stated he was in support of the change from Village Manager to Village Administrator and officers are hired by the President, and Department Heads by the Administrator. Also, in the proposed ordinance, a catch all phrase was needed to change Manager to Administrator throughout.

Trustee Mangian also stated she was in favor of the change from Manager to Administrator.

Trustee Niccum stated the change from Village Manager to Village Administrator needs to be voted on and passed now.

There was a consensus of the Trustees to move forward and have President Dykstra and Trustee Brown work with Attorney Marc Miller to prepare an Ordinance changing the title of the Village Manager to Village Administrative and possibly having it ready next week for the 5-20-2020 Board of Trustees Meeting or the first BOT Meeting in June or third meeting in June.

3. ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the open and public Board of Trustees Study Session meeting, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Billie Jean Krueger

Billie Jean Krueger, Village Clerk

This meeting was recorded.

Minutes approved this 3rd day of June 2020.

/s/ Billie Jean Krueger