

6:30PM**Standing Committee Assignments****Streets & Alleys**

100 East Race Street Issue

5th & Main Street Drainage

Finance

Budget 2013-2014

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Russ Hancock

Streets & Alleys

100 East Race Street: Russ had all board members review the proposal from CMT and expressed his concerns over the recent heavy rains we have experienced. There was discussion in regards to the proposal from CMT and what exactly was covered in the proposal. The subject was postponed until the June board meeting for clarification from Burris.

5th & Main Street: There was discussion about the wash out that is happening at this address. The board reviewed the plans submitted by CMT. Clerk Coon told the board of a phone call received from the home owner (A. Karker) expressing concerns due to his child falling into washout area and getting a minor injury. There was discussion about the water flow north of said residence once the curb and gutter is installed during the Rt. 136 IDOT project and water is flowing properly.

Recommendations:

- Have the maintenance workers fill in washed out area with CA 6 gravel on 6-7-2013 until a permanent repair can be made by proper placement of curb and guttering from IDOT Rt. 136 project
- Monitor and evaluate the flow of water north of repaired area prior to and upon completion of the IDOT Rt. 136 project

Nolan gave the board a brief update as to what is happening with the 105 W. Walnut address and will give complete report at the June 10, 2013 Buildings & Grounds committee meeting.

Standing Committee Assignments: Clerk Coon explained that these assignments must have the consent of the board per Ordinance #1-8-2 and that there had been concerns expressed by board members relating to the current assignments. Clerk Coon then got called from the meeting to an emergency situation so recording of meeting was turned over to Trustee Blackstock who recorded the following:

Smith voiced concerns that Tibbs is a relative to mayor as such regarding the pending lawsuit and having possible conflicts of interest. Vince also suggested that Ralph become the new police committee chairman. Russ did not understand the conflict of interest. Blackstock then stopped the meeting to be afforded the time to get a recording started for the remainder of the meeting. Smith pointed out that he had been recording the meeting and would continue recording so that Clerk Coon could transcribe the remainder of the meeting. From Recording: Smith explained the possibility of someone misconstruing Tibbs and Skelton relationship as "strong arming" over the police department due to their relationship. Tibbs explained his past work history to include working in a management position and great knowledge of computers. There was then a discussion regarding police department computers that were taken from village property and taken to private residences. Tibbs stated "everything (files) had come up missing". R. Coon explained that "they (Tibbs & Skelton)" should not have taken the computer off the property. Tibbs explained to R. Coon that he was not on the police committee therefore; he had no concern over the police computer. Skelton stated that the current chief of police had asked Tibbs to look into said computer(s). Tibbs and Skelton pointed out that the prior

administration of the village had been doing more “strong arming” than they had. Tibbs pointed out that the ex-police chief Hodgson and “the ex-mayor” were the ones who did all the “strong-arming”. R. Coon pointed out Hodgson had quit so “leave him alone”. Nolan, Smith and Hancock asked to be filled in on what was being discussed as they were unaware of the issues at hand. R. Coon expressed his concerns about the apparent “back-handed, back-stabbing vendettas” that are potentially going on. Nolan and Hancock individually stated “I am lost” due to the lack of explanation by Tibbs, Skelton or R. Coon of the discussed situation. Tibbs went on to explain that he had the police computer at his house and that he had changed out the hard drive on it to get it working again. R. Coon explained that no one other than a licensed police officer in the State of Illinois had that right to tamper with these computers. Tibbs informed R. Coon that he was incorrect about this issue. Skelton stated “the State Police should be called in for that fact alone because what happened there”. Tibbs stated that if said computers were turned over to the State Police then “Aaron might get arrested for all the s**t he has done”. Coon replied, “I don’t care but the State Police should be doing it (looking into computer) not you (Tibbs) and George. Talk about strong-arming.” Skelton stated they were still gathering information. Hancock expressed that he did not see a problem with Tibbs remaining police chairman if our police department was not directly looking into the lawsuit against Skelton. There was discussion about the reasons for retaining Spickard and Melton as police officers due to all the supposed problems and conflicts with their job performance. Tibbs explained their job performance was because “Aaron (Hodgson) and the ex-Mayor not allowing them to do their job”. Blackstock reminded all board members that the police committee meeting was set for 6-10-2013 which is the time for this discussion to continue. Hancock asked Smith to finish his point that he had been making. Smith explained that he had no idea what Tibbs, Skelton and R. Coon were referring to in their conversation and stated he did not intend to start an argument. Blackstock stated that soon after the new board was seated there was an evening where she had witnessed Tibbs’, Skelton’s and the police vehicle all parked outside of the police station. Blackstock stated she did not know what they were doing but she did recall thinking it was odd due to Smith and Nolan not being involved and upon further investigation found out that neither Smith nor Nolan knew why the three had been there on said evening; therefore, ruling out a possible police committee meeting being held. Smith pointed out that this was the kind of misunderstanding that he was concerned with. Tibbs explained that they had done “nothing at all”. Smith, R. Coon and Blackstock all agreed that it did not look good. Tibbs explained that he has spoken with both police officers and told them that he expected them to do their jobs and he did not have any problems with them and he expected all tickets to be written equally to anyone deserving of such. “What’s fair is fair” stated Tibbs, “and that is the way I believe because I am not playing favorites for nobody”. Smith explained, “I am not saying that you would play favorites. I’m just saying as I put it, possible conflict of interest due to court case versus Mr. Skelton regarding possible files on the computer”. Skelton replied with “no”. Smith went on to explain his assumption that since it is a police computer there would be files or records on said computer, that when viewed by Tibbs and Skelton together, could create a conflict of interest. Smith voiced his concern over the evidence being considered “tampered with, for or against,” if an investigation was ever launched and thus is why he brought said concern to the board. Tibbs stated that he agreed with Smith and his concerns however; he “has seen nothing about that and the lawyers have all of that” and Tibbs stated, “I have been told that the police over here had nothing to do with that (lawsuit against Skelton).” Blackstock pointed out that she had obtained information saying that no one other than police officers should be looking at police files, period. Tibbs agreed with Blackstock’s concern but Skelton pointed out that as mayor he had the right to review anything including police records. Blackstock stated her disbelief in Skelton’s statement and Smith asked for proof of Skelton’s statement. Tibbs stated that “Ten years ago Aaron brought the computer down to me and told me to fix it. I said, what about all of these files? He (Hodgson) goes, ‘I don’t care’”. R. Coon pointed out that didn’t mean anything because Aaron isn’t here to take care of things now to which Tibbs agreed. Blackstock stated that she knew Aaron was always careful about what he said to anyone about cases. Smith read from the IML handbook, page 103 2nd full paragraph, as given to him from Skelton. There was discussion about the interpretation of stated reading and the accuracy as it pertains to this matter. There was discussion about who to contact for the proper interpretation and rendering of the laws pertaining to this

issue. Skelton stated that "we went up to the police department because the files had been removed". R. Coon questioned how they knew this to which Skelton replied, "There are dates on there". R. Coon asked, "How are we supposed to know if you didn't go up there and remove the files yourself?" Tibbs responded, "Oh my God, are you serious?" to which R. Coon stated, "That's what it could look like. Yes I'm serious." Tibbs responded, "You're a f***ing idiot." Smith stopped the discussion and said, "Let's hold the name calling that is ridiculous. Now both of you (Tibbs & R. Coon) are getting out of hand". Skelton explained that "on a computer when something is modified, there is a date written right on it when it was modified". R. Coon stated that there should have been a police officer there. Tibbs explained that there was a police officer there, the chief of police. Smith asked for the floor for a minute. Smith summarized the conversation by restating that Skelton & Tibbs have viewed files that have potentially been modified, Skelton added "and witnessed by the police chief", which comes back to Smith's point of conflict of interest. Smith explained that he also understood R. Coon's point of view, to where what Skelton and Tibbs were doing could be viewed as a conflict, even in a court of law, that Skelton and Tibbs may have went in and altered such records. Skelton again stated that "it was witnessed by the chief of police". R. Coon stated "but that is what it looks like." Skelton also stated that he "had no access whatsoever to that computer before Aaron left". Tibbs stated that "until it was brought to me, I can tell you right now, that hard drive had been destroyed." It was clarified that the computer Tibbs was referring to was the old computer. Blackstock stated that the board was notified that the old computer was "fried". Skelton stated "there is a very incriminating problem there". Hancock stated, "There is a difference between fried and erased." Tibbs responded, there was a disk in there (the old computer) to destroy the hard drive". Smith asked if he "was the only one clueless on this whole thing?" Skelton stated there was going to be no more discussion on the subject because they are still looking into the matter. Smith stated his reason for this being that the subject matter needs to be on the meeting scheduled for 6-10-2013. Everyone was in agreement with this statement. Smith questioned what our procedure was, if there was proof then further discussion would be needed. Skelton stated, "yes (there was proof) but getting the state police involved would probably get Aaron in trouble and probably a few other people in trouble too." Smith and R. Coon agreed that if there was wrong doing then it needed to be found out. There was more discussion about calling the state police for investigation into this matter. R. Coon stated, "I'm not accusing you guys (Tibbs & Skelton) of doing anything wrong, I'm just saying for John Blow to see you guys up there (it could look bad)". Tibbs responded that, "it could go deeper than right here". The perception of this issue was discussed. Hancock asked about several board members being in the same place at the same time. It was explained that as long as said board members weren't talking about village business then it was fine. The perception of such a scenario was discussed and proof would have to be produced of wrong doing. Smith explained that his intentions were not to cause trouble but instead to bring constructive fixes which was why he suggested swapping around and having Coon and Tibbs swap places as chairmen. There was clarification that said committee assignments would have to be voted on at the next board meeting. Skelton stated he had changed the standing committee assignments three times and he wasn't doing it again. Blackstock pointed out that the board had not voted on them to accept them yet. Skelton disagreed that said assignments had to be voted on with Blackstock pointing out that the board has always agreed to stated assignments in the past. Smith pointed out that this was in the ordinances as such. Clerk Coon returned to the meeting. Smith then stated his second concern being possible "bad blood" between Chairman Hancock and Maintenance personnel. Smith asked for clarification as to the main committees governing over Maintenance personnel. It was pointed out that Streets & Alleys and Water & Sewer were the two main committees. Hancock pointed out that "we are all their boss and can tell them what to do." Tibbs stated that he did not want Hancock switched because he does know what is going on. Tibbs then stated that anyone in there could also tell the police officers what to do because they (board members) were their boss as well. Smith recapped what had been discussed over current subject by recommending 1) swapping out Ralph Coon and Roland Tibbs chair seats due to legal issues and relationship with mayor 2) swapping Russell Hancock with Blackstock, due to working under Maintenance supervisor for many years. Hancock and Smith discussed a perception of a possible problem between Hancock and maintenance personnel. Smith pointed out that all orders to police department should go through the police

chairman to the chief of police and then trickle down, but the police chairman can take any concerns from anyone else to relay to the chief of police, and on the same token all orders for maintenance personnel go through Streets & Alleys and/or Water & Sewer chairmen to trickle down instead of orders coming from everywhere and confusing things. There was discussion about Ethics Board reviews when conflicts between two people arise. Smith and Blackstock clarified that the subject was not just conflicts, it is also when several people give one person direct orders to do multiple tasks which creates confusion. There was discussion in regards to a list given to the maintenance personnel instructing them to wash the police vehicle and if this was in deed their task to complete. Hancock explained to Blackstock that he thought Conrad was upset because now he (Hancock) was telling him (Conrad) what to do but "Excuse me I am his boss, one of six of his bosses now". Blackstock responded that she did not feel this to be true. Blackstock questioned why the changing of committee heads was meeting with such resistance. Smith stated that "I am finding out that there is something else going on, apparently, that I don't know about." Tibbs stated, "No" and Blackstock stated she "don't know what the big deal is". Smith again tried to point out his "fix" to the problem was changing Hancock and Blackstock. Tibbs suggested leaving Russ where he is. Tibbs stated he had military experience. Skelton stated he had changed it (assignments) three times and he wasn't going to be able to make everyone happy. Smith stated he "would rather everyone not have conflicts". Blackstock stated, "be transparent in everything and keep everything above board". . Hancock reprised the problem with Blackstock pertaining to the list that he had given to maintenance personnel. Hancock could not understand what the problem was with them washing the outside of the police car. Blackstock explained that maintenance do the other tasks on the list in question and Hancock expressed that he had been told that Conrad did not want to pick up trash. Tibbs and Smith were discussing what kind of issues should be taken to the ethics committee once one was formed and the fairness of the police force. There were further discussions in regards to the changing of the standing committee assignments with no recommendations sent forward. Nolan voiced concerns of the fairness of the police department before moving onto budget discussions. Tibbs stated that he would be behind the police force 110% no matter who the ticket goes to. Nolan expressed bias and favoritism needs not be done.

Budget: Nolan asked Blackstock to explain the budget as prepared. The board reviewed proposed budget line for line making several changes to the proposal.

Recommendation:

Review and accept the final budget at the June regular board meeting.

Nolan adjourned meeting at 8:58 pm