

Village Board Minutes
Village of Onarga, Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2020

1. Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Cultra called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Roll Call

Shane Cultra, Village President; Fred Walraven, Trustee; Angie Martinez, Trustee; Cole Rabe, Trustee; Holly Zirkle, Trustee; Sarah Barnett, Trustee; Russ Geisler, Trustee; Stephanie VonDrehle, Village Clerk, absent; Tim Hamilton, Village Supervisor; Doug Brenner, Police Chief; Becky Morgan, Park Coordinator, absent; & Gilman Star.

3. Review and approval of the Regular & Executive Village Board Minutes Monday December 14, 2020.

Geisler motioned to approve the regular meeting of December 14, 2020 as presented. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Session Meeting Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

4. Review and approval of treasurer's report

Walraven motioned to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Geisler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. Review and approval of bills to be paid

Walraven motioned to approve the bills to be paid as presented. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Public comment

7. Review of correspondence to the board

Cultra read a letter from the Village Attorney Wolf, for the sewer litigation which stated the Village's motion had been denied. Wolf stated the Village could still appeal from a date in 2014 and could possibly win this appeal but the lawsuit could only be for the grinders that had been replaced due to cracks. Wolf stated him and the firm he works for would not want to take a part in this and the Village would have to find another attorney. Wolf stated he would discuss all matters if anyone would like to discuss with him, however. He also stated his fee was based upon a contingency fee and due to this there will be no fees from him, but the firm has had some damages that will need to be paid, he was unsure of the amount but believes they will be well under \$1000. Wolf stated in order to file another appeal we would have to have it completed in the next 30 days, which would be January 22nd. Cultra stated he just thinks we forgo going through with any such action and asked the board if there was any objection to this. Cultra then asked Hamilton what the costs the Village had incurred would be from the date in 2014 and he thought from the timeframe given it would be \$60,000 that the Village could possibly receive back. Cultra stated that with having to find another attorney and the possible reimbursements of repairs it was not worth the hassle. The board members agreed to this as well. Cultra then asked for the board to approve this. Walraven motioned to approve not filing another appeal for the sewer due to all of the above circumstances. Barnett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Review and Possible Action on Ordinances

9. Standing Committee reports

9.1 Parks and Recreation (Holly Zirkle, Russ Geisler, Angie Martinez)

9.2 Infrastructure (Fred Walraven, Sarah Barnett, Cole Rabe)

9.2.1 Evergreen Street Repair

Walraven stated everything for Evergreen street is completed except for the trees that will be planted. Cultra stated some trees could be purchased at \$12.00 apiece. Hamilton inquired if a watering bag could be included with the trees. Cultra stated yes, they would have to be purchased, however. Cultra has some ideas of trees that would look very nice along that street, but this can be discussed in further detail at a committee meeting before April.

Walraven stated he spoke with Piggush today and the other block got pushed back into later in the first quarter of 2021.

9.2.2 Bore & Jack Project

Walraven stated for the Bore & Jack Project, this project will go out to bid January 19th. After the bids are given the Village will have to wait 75 days for approval and then the project can be completed in April or May of this year.

9.2.3 Sidewalk Project

Geisler stated for the Sidewalk Project they are waiting for final approval from the Federal Government and once approved we can go out for bid.

9.3 Safety, Security, & Enforcement (Russ Geisler, Angie Martinez, Holly Zirkle)

9.3.1 Discussion & Possible Approval of Joint Contract with Gilman to Hire Iroquois County Sheriff's Department Patrol

Geisler stated Shear dropped off the final contract. Cultra stated the newest breakdown stated the Village's costs to be \$48,000, however the bottom number showed \$59,400. Cultra stated the Village could probably negotiate with the county to get this figure reduced and possibly renegotiate with Gilman as well to cut costs but there is no use in asking either if the board is not wanting to engage in this contract. Cultra stated it would definitely cause some cuts in the Village's current police force. Barnett stated with the new increase there is no way for the Village to keep on the current police force. Barnett also stated that the new contract was now for 1 year, which was 2 previously. Cultra stated that the year change might be better. Barnett agreed however, what will the increase be for the following year. Cultra stated if the increase is too high the Village can get out. Barnett stated at that point it may be too late and the Village then, we will have lost the current department and if this happens how do we ever get that back. Cultra again stated if the board is not willing to cut the services the Village currently has then there is really no point of negotiation. Barnett also noticed in the contract that originally it said the police would be in Gilman and Onarga areas while on duty but now it added in Danforth, LaHogue, Del Rey, and Thawville as well. Cultra stated Del Rey and LaHogue would be a part of Onarga and Gilman but asked Brenner what his thoughts were on this addition. Brenner stated this is the first he had heard of that as well. Cultra stated if the Village does not want that included, it could just be crossed out or at least discussed since this a new addition to the contract. Barnett inquired if this than previously discussed is it a possibility for those towns to share in some costs. Rabe inquired if anyone has a count on the number of times this contract has changed in which the board agreed with him, but it was stated this draft was supposed to be the final. Barnett asked if the committee could meet with Cultra and Brenner to work together and come up with a proper negotiation. Cultra agreed and a meeting will be scheduled first with the committee and then with Gilman and the County.

9.4 Finance (Sarah Barnett, Fred Walraven, Cole Rabe)

9.4.1 Comcast Franchise Agreement Discussion & Possible Approval

This Comcast Franchise Agreement Discussion will be tabled until the next meeting.

9.5 Local and Intergovernmental Communications (Angie Martinez, Holly Zirkle, Russ Geisler)

Martinez stated some signs have been put up for Village owned properties for people to build on and also there were not enough, so she ordered five more signs from Iroquois Print. Geisler stated people are calling to obtain information on some of properties.

9.6 Building Standards (Russ Geisler, Holly Zirkle, Angie Martinez)

Geisler motioned to give Hamilton the authority to add liens to two properties due to not paying water bills. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

9.7 TIF Committee (Fred Walraven, Sarah Barnett, Cole Rabe)

9.8 Litigation Committee (Shane Cultra, Fred Walraven, Sarah Barnett, Matt Clark, and Mike Tilstra)

10. Old business

11. New business

12. Executive session (if needed) for any lawful purpose including but not limited to: Appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees; Salary schedules for one or more employees; Selection of person to fill a public office or discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office; Purchase or lease of real property or setting of a price for sale or lease of village property; Litigation, pending or probable.

Barnett motioned to open executive session at 7:35pm. Rabe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rabe motioned to close executive session at 7:45pm. Barnett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

13. Possible action on any executive session item

14. Adjournment

Walraven motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm. Rabe seconded the motion. The motion carried.